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THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER

OYSTER RIVER HIGH SCHOOL 55 COE DRIVE DURHAM, NH 03824 VOLUME 29, ISSUE 3

Thursday, April 8th, 2010

The Toddlers are Coming!



Alex Buck
News Writer

September, 2010. Are the freshmen getting even smaller? Or is that a three-year old walking down the hall of Oyster River High School?

No, the freshmen aren't shrinking. This scene could soon be a reality starting next year. Oyster River High School may be invaded by preschoolers.

The Oyster River School Board along with administrators in the district have begun to consider moving the Oyster River PEP program to Oyster River High School. The PEP program, which stands for Preschool Educational Program, has never really had a permanent home, moving between Mastway Elementary School, Moharimet Elementary School, and even in the basement of St. Georges Church in downtown Durham.

Currently the PEP program is situated at both the Mast Way and Moharimet Elementary schools. The program involves 4 classes each consisting of around 14 children; two morning classes of 3 year olds and two afternoon classes of 4 year olds. The PEP program also has a 5 week summer program .The purpose of the PEP program as defined by the Oyster River District is to provide a special education program for those students between ages 3-5 who have been determined in need of such a program through the special education program. Also children without special needs can be enrolled in the PEP program for a fee of \$100 a month. Even though the PEP program caters specifically to Oyster River District students the program itself is not owned by the district. The PEP program is run by Strafford County and is



program is far more structured. A typical day in the PEP program might consist of coloring, singing the Muffin Man with choreography, reading nursery rhymes, a break for recess, lunch, and many more fun and engaging activities.

So where are these young children going to be located? Mrs. Healy and Mr. Ryan's rooms on the first floor will most likely be the new home for the PEP program. The PEP program was initially going to use rooms in the Special Education and Guidance Wing. However, the cost of renovating these rooms was too high and alternative options were explored. The two rooms will be remodeled and a bathroom will be added to cater to the new tenants. Also a new playground will be built for the PEP program in the courtyard right outside Mrs. Healy's current room.

If this move were to happen a space for Mr. Ryan's room has not been found yet. But, Mrs. Healy's room will most likely be moved to the teacher's room on the first floor across the hall from the copy room. The new space is larger than her previous room and renovations to turn the room into a functional space would be relatively cheap but it does not have any windows. "It's a cave," commented Heather Healy.

To many in the Oyster River community the concept of having a preschool within a high school setting might seem strange. However, according to Laurie Grant, Portsmouth High School has a similar set up for their preschool and it seems to function perfectly well.

Continued on Page 2...

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 8	Talent Show	May 6-8	Bye, Bye Birdie
April 14	Early Release	May 14	Junior/Senior Prom
April 19-23	April Break	May 21	Senior Follies

Quote of the Issue:

"Some kids come with both sets of equipment."
-Mrs. Kishbaugh
Overheards continued on page 14...

The Toddlers are Coming!

Continued from page one...



Alex Buck
News Writer

Some people at the high school seem uneasy about this move and are concerned about having impressionable preschoolers in close proximity to high schoolers. However, the PEP staff and parents could not be more excited. “It’s really important to have our own space,” said Karen Schidlowsky, a PEP program staff member. Karen has been working for the PEP program for 10 years. She expressed her excitement for the move and has very few concerns about high school students being a problem. “I would hope kids would rise to the occasion,” said Schidlowsky.

Laurie Grant also expressed her opinion. “I’m not worried by high school students,” said Grant. For the most part the program will be pretty isolated to their own space, so everyday interaction between the toddlers and high school students will be kept at a minimum. According to Laurie Grant, parents are also ecstatic about the move to the high school. The PEP program has never truly had permanent quarters and many parents have shown their gratitude for a place to call home for the program.

As excited as many are, not everyone is completely convinced that it’s a good idea to have a preschool at the high school. The main concern for many students and faculty is the location within the building. The two rooms housing the PEP program would be right outside the Senior core, a location that many feel is unwise. “I don’t mind having a preschool but I think the location where it will be is not so good,” said Junior Tony Limauro.

“I don’t think seniors are going to do anything horrible,” said Healy. “I’m more worried about the sound from people coming down the stairs.” “I hear more noise from the sophomore hallway then I do coming from the senior core,” continued Healy.

Matthew Pappas, a social studies teacher at the high school, also has some issues with the location of the preschool. “I’m concerned with where it will be,” stated Pappas. He said that the teachers had very little say in where the district would place the PEP program. “I felt we should have had input on where it would be located,” continued Pappas.

The decision to move the PEP program to the high school is currently being worked on and still needs the approval of the School Board. However according to Laurie Grant the school board seems to be in favor of the move and she believes that the move will most likely happen.



The PEP classroom at Moharimet.

What do you think? Have an opinion on the PEP program article or something else you’ve read in this newspaper? The last chance for your letter to the editor is fast approaching! Submit letters to jkucera@orcsd.org! And - see us on the Web through the district web site!



Alex Buck
News Writer

The Mayans Were Right:
2012 in New Hampshire

One bucket after another you fill from your recently flooded basement up to the surface with no light, no heat, and no water. Well except for the water accumulating in the basement. This is the situation that most residents of New Hampshire have had to experience the past three years. Some have had it worse than others but all have felt the effects of the tremendous winter and spring storms that have swept through the serene

landscape of New Hampshire.

In 2007 New Hampshire was hit with the first of three storms that battered the people of New Hampshire. In April New Hampshire had immense rainstorms that caused flooding throughout the state. Governor John Lynch called for a state of emergency and put nearly 300 National Guardsmen on duty to help with the disaster. Many schools in New Hampshire including ones within the Oyster River School District were closed for multiple days. Over 400 roads were closed from flooding and over

1000 homes throughout New Hampshire were also severely affected by the flooding.

On December 11th, 2008 New Hampshire was hit by one of the most significant disasters it had ever seen. A combination of wintery conditions and almost 2 inches of ice accumulation devastated the people and infrastructure of New Hampshire. The storm at its peak left over 400,000 people, nearly two thirds of the population of NH without power. The Power outages in some parts lasted weeks and during the hard times without power there were below zero temperatures, high wind chills, and significant snow falls. Also the storm was directly connected to the loss of four lives.

In February of 2010 and the most recent of the three storms was what was called “the hurricane in New Hampshire.” The so called hurricane tore trees down, left power lines twisted and mangled, and caused over 10 million dollars worth of damage throughout New Hampshire. In Portsmouth, New Hampshire wind speeds were of hurricane stature being clocked around 60 mph. At its peak the storm left 360,000 customers without power.



Photo courtesy of Fred Meissner



Photo courtesy of Rachel Chiodo

“We tried to get to Ryan Randall’s house the back way through Newmarket and we came to a tree in the road and turned around. About 100 ft. the other way another tree was down so we were stuck on bay road. Some dude wouldn’t let us into his house so we waited 2 in this guy’s drive way waiting for the fire department.” –Tommy MacDonald.

“Me and a group of friends were watching paranormal activity 1 o’clock and right when she kills her boyfriend the screen went black, the lights flickers, and the transformer outside blew. Then for the next 4 hours we had to bail water out of her basement with no lights,” –Emma Congalton

“I had water in my basement finished basement for about 4 days. I would say there was enough water to fill a pool and I was the only one there. My dad’s in the military right now and so I was really the only one home. I had to stay home from school to bail out the water.” –Travis Hackett



Photo courtesy of Gabby Chesney



Going Greek Is Fraternity Life Right for You?



Ben Belanger
News Writer

This seems to be the image that most people get in their heads when they hear the word “fraternity” – but is this an accurate view of what fraternities and sororities are really like?

Tuesday, September 30, 2008
- The Durham Police raided the Sigma Beta fraternity at UNH. Inside, they found marijuana, ecstasy, oxycodine, hallucinogenic mushrooms, prescription drugs, and assorted drug paraphernalia. Nine members were arrested and the university suspended the fraternity, which had already been on probation because of an incident that May involving hazing, public intoxication, and illegal drinking.

Following this suspension, another fraternity, Phi Mu Delta was also suspended. The suspension happened after five students in the fraternity and two pledges were arrested and charged with alcohol offenses. These arrests occurred after several people received medical attention for alcohol poisoning.

Adam McCready, Coordinator of Greek Life at UNH, thinks that the actions of these specific groups are both against the ideas and values of Greek Life, and are a misrepresentation of Greek Life as a whole. “Unfortunately, some chapters have strayed from their core values,” said McCready. “The actions of these groups tarnish the image of the entire Greek community.”

According to police reports from Durham Chief of Police, David Kurz, the police had only had to respond to calls about noise complaints, disorderly actions or any other incident requiring police intervention at the Sigma Beta house twice from 2006 – September 30, 2008. They only responded to one call regarding the Phi Mu Delta in the same time period.

Kurz says this whole scenario makes him sad. “I know that’s not what you expect to hear from a Police Chief, but I’m not a naïve person... manufacturing and trying to make money from [illegal drugs] ...that’s the inappropriateness of a fraternity.”

The so-called “appropriateness” of a fraternity is clearly defined in the InterFraternity Council Constitution. Unfortunately, the actions of some fraternities don’t always align with these values. A prime example of this is the idea of hazing. Heuchling experienced this first hand. “I went to school in the late 60s, early 70s,” explained Heuchling. “Our initiation wasn’t anything harmful, just maybe one or two things considered degrading. There was this great game called ‘Bombardiers’ where [the pledge] lies on the ground at the bottom of a stairwell with their mouth open. The others crack an egg, and they get points for how close they get to your mouth.”

Although he was not willing to specify exactly what, Tim Franciscovich, the former Vice President of the IFC, also had to endure hazing at UNH. “I did have to go through some hazing before I went through rituals,” said Franciscovich. “We have since then gotten rid of the hazing [at Lambda Chi Alpha].” Franciscovich also explained the differences between initiation and hazing. According to him, the idea of initiation isn’t against UNH rules. Initiation is meant to be a ritual, and there are differences between a ritual and hazing. A ritual is a secret event that involves no hazing whatsoever.

Chief Kurz isn’t against the idea of fraternities and sororities, saying that they exist to promote camaraderie, friendship and responsibility. However, the recent activity of fraternities clearly bothers him. “What makes it problematic,”

said Kurz, “is that they should be social organizations that would exist to foster good relationships and do good things for the community... and of late they have turned that around a little bit.”

Racheal Dowhan, a senior at UNH, has been in a sorority for three years. Dowhan disagrees with Chief Kurz. “I think fraternities and sororities not only have a positive affect on UNH,” said Dowhan, “but also on the Durham community as a whole... We participate in clean up Durham, light up Durham, and other fundraising events which are things that I think really get overshadowed by the bad news that gets reported.”

“It’s unfortunate the things that have made it into the news,” said Dowhan, “but I think it’s important to remember

stereotype; drinking every night ‘til we pass out, thinking about nothing but sex...,” explained Brammer, speaking of the ignorant, obnoxious stigma commonly associated with fraternities. “This is not what we are about. Greeks hold a higher standard for themselves. Being Greek is something to be proud of.”

Recent ORHS Graduate and current Alpha Chi Omega sister at UNH, Sarah Trombley believes that the stereotypes of fraternities and sororities are definitely exaggerated. “I think a lot of people stereotype our organizations by what they see on movies like ‘animal house,’” explained Trombley. “Sure, we party and have a good time, but we’re also a family and do a lot of good for the community.” Trombley also highlighted that fraternity and sorority members have

to uphold a minimum grade requirement, meaning that school is of importance to the organizations.

Barbara Milliken, a foreign language teacher at ORHS, isn’t a fan of fraternities and sororities for one simple reason. “There’s a lot of pressure to behave in ways that someone else chooses,” explained Milliken. “You lose your sense of self.”

Dowhan disagrees. “I definitely think you can be an individual in a sorority,” said Dowhan. “There are a lot of different kinds of people within each house and you might not be best friends with all of them, but you appreciate and respect everyone for who they are and what they stand for.”

ORHS Substitute Teacher Rob Heuchling went to school at Northwestern and pledged at the Phi Delta Theta fraternity. Heuchling enjoyed his time at the fraternity and agrees with Dowhan on the topic of peer-pressure. “There was peer pressure,” explained Heuchling, “but you didn’t necessarily have to go along with everyone else in order to fit in.

You could still be an individual, it wasn’t mandatory that you always did what everyone else was doing.”

As mentioned earlier, there are many positive things that fraternities and sororities do for the community, as well. The Alpha Phi sorority puts on a healthy food eating contest, called “eat your heart out,” that raises money for the American Heart Association in support of women’s cardiac care. They also have an annual community wide holiday party where each guest brings an unwrapped toy and the sorority donates them to Toys for Tots and they participate in Relay for Life. In addition, each fraternity and sorority attends each others events to boost the outcome.

Brammer, Trombley and Dowhan agree that high school seniors should at least look into joining a fraternity or sorority for college next year. “Give it a chance,” said Brammer. “Just go to RUSH and get a feel for it. Each fraternity and sorority is different, and asking questions during events is the best way to find out which one is for you.”

Chief Kurz advises students to look into fraternities and sororities if they are interested, but they should do some research on the fraternity or sorority they wanted to join first, to make sure it will be a positive place for them to live.

McCready also encourages students to look into joining a Greek organization. “When a Greek organization’s actions are aligned with its values,” said McCready, “it can provide one of the best learning environments for students outside of the classroom.”

With all the negativity you hear about, it’s easy to forget just what these fraternities and sororities give back – collecting toys for children in need, raising money for heart disease and cancer research and cleaning up the campus after events, just to name a few. This is the side of fraternities and sororities that few know about, or care to realize. Also, these houses seem not only to help students get through their years at college, they provide their members lifelong friends and memories.

Even those who have graduated still reminisce on their times in the UNH Greek Life system. “I wouldn’t trade my four years in a sorority for anything,” said UNH Graduate, Meg Homan. “They have been unforgettable and I have gained my lifelong best friends from them.”



A UNH sorority on a community service trip to New Orleans to help repair homes.



A UNH fraternity brother picking up trash outdoors.

that those situations could happen anywhere, with any group of people.” Kurz does agree with her on this, though, saying that anytime you put young people in one location, the chances of something going wrong heightens.

Although it is commonly believed that the chances of a fraternity or sorority making a mistake are just as high as any other group, Pan-Hellenic Council President, Mireille Hartley, believes that students in the Greek Life program at UNH aren’t always treated fairly. “When we do something wrong, we are punished in a much harsher way than any other student organization or individual non-Greek student would be in a similar situation,” explained Hartley. “The stereotypes suck, but the only thing we can do is to be the best Greeks we possibly can so that we can start changing the minds of our peers, faculty, and community members.”

In November of 2009, Adam Brammer was elected President of the InterFraternity Council of UNH with the primary goal of changing the perception of Greek Life. Brammer completely agrees with Hartley. “Right now everyone thinks of Fraternities and Sororities as their



Where’s Open Campus?



Erik Frid
News Writer

The open campus proposal has been completed and was handed over to Principal Laura Rogers. Now the proposal has to be voted on by the faculty and has to be looked over by an attorney. After that it is up to Superintendent Howard Colter to sign the proposal and then open campus will be put in place, however at this point in the year open campus won’t

happen until next fall. Issues were raised about open campus concerning the “less than ideal” results of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Rogers said that she wasn’t concerned with having drug and behavior problems with kids who qualified for open campus, but instead she’s worried that some of the administrative attention will be drawn away from the drug problems, because they’ll have to monitor kids entering and leaving the building.



If the faculty votes in favor of open campus then it’s all up to Superintendent Howard Colter. Photo courtesy of the Fosters Daily Democrat

A Surprise In the Spring:
Over April Break, Locks Will Be Put On Most of The Lockers

Weren’t they supposed to put locks on all of lockers? Well according to the administration the locks aren’t going to be put on the lockers until April Vacation. The reason why it’s taken so long for the locks to be put on is because the school got locks, but they decided to send them back for locks that are easier to adjust the combos. Additionally following the vacation students will have to go back to the lockers that they were assigned at the beginning of the year. Except for the seniors, said Oyster



Senior Emily Balch at her locker in the Senior Core. Seniors this year are exempt from having locks on their lockers and having to move back to their original lockers.



Erik Frid
News Writer

River High School Principal Laura Rogers. According to Rogers the seniors are here for the long term and that there isn’t a need to put locks on their lockers and make them move back to their assigned lockers. The administration felt that putting locks on the lockers was necessary because they were dealing with too many issues involving lockers: inappropriate items being put into people’s lockers, things being stolen from lockers, and food being put into lockers. Also since this year the freshmen lockers were dispersed all around the school a lot of them are getting kicked out by upperclassmen.

Is Our Youth’s Behavior at Risk?
Survey Shows Surprising Results



Sara Usher
News Writer

Question 46. During your life, how many times have you sniffed glue, breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans, or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high? According to the 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 9.9% of students at Oyster River High School answered that they have at least once.

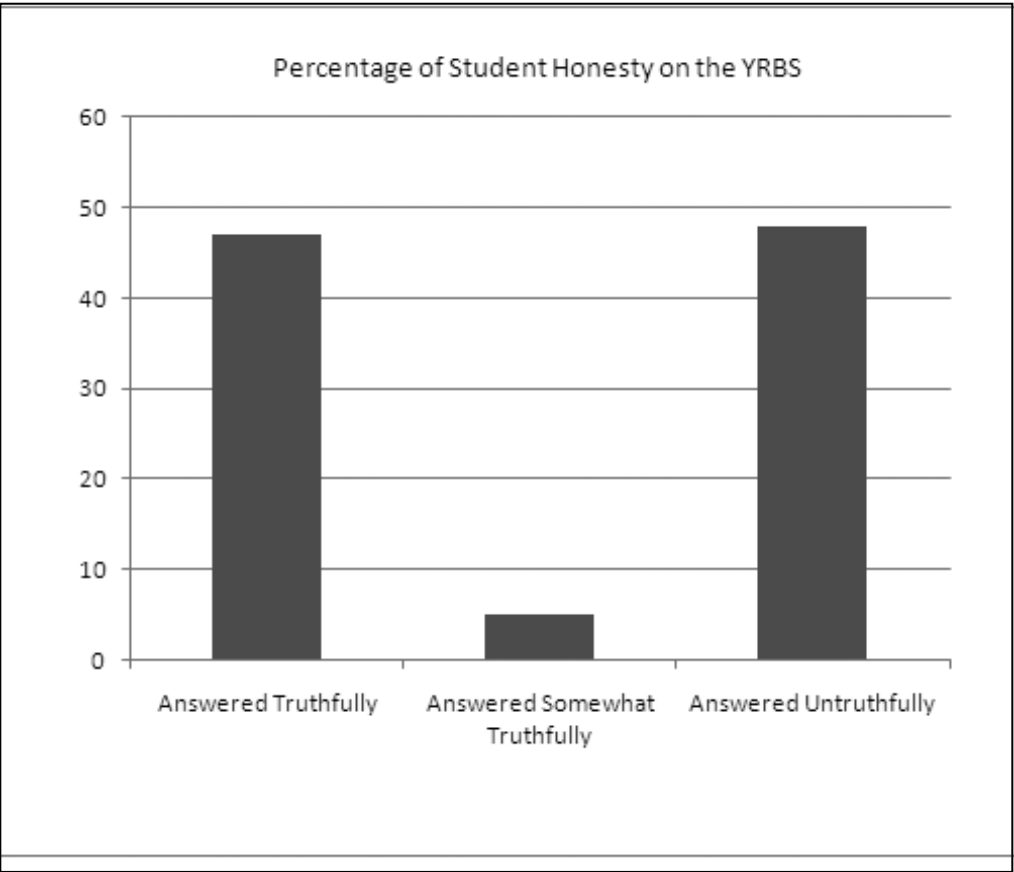
The Youth Risk Behavior Survey was taken by ORHS in the fall of 2009. The questions were on the topics of School Performance and Community Relations, Safety, Sexual Behavior, Suicide, Weight, Food, and Physical Activity, Health Related, Tobacco Use, Tobacco - Perception of Harm, Perception of Wrongness, Ease of Acquisition, Alcohol Use, Alcohol - Perception

of Harm and Perception of Wrongness, Alcohol-Access, Marijuana Use, Marijuana - Perception of Harm, Perception of Wrongness, Ease of Acquisition. However some students have not taken this survey seriously. The questions can be seen as amusing which has caused some confusion among the results. But what does it matter if some people lied? What impact does that have on our school?

The impact it could possibly have is on the topic of open campus. Students at Oyster River High School have always aspired to obtaining open campus and this year they are closer than ever to achieving that goal. The results of the survey have concerned many administrators. ORHS Principal Laura Rogers commented “Some of the results I feel really good about like our students use of helmets have increased and that makes me happy. I also feel good about most students wear seatbelts and are taking it seriously.” Rogers then added “I am disturbed that (15%) of students think their parent’s don’t think it’s wrong to smoke pot.”

The idea of open campus being taken away when it is so close is upsetting to students. “I understand that they’re worried about kids but they don’t do stuff like that in school,” said ORHS Senior Molly Moynihan. When sixty students at Oyster River High School were surveyed about the survey they took in 2009 48% of them said they did not answer truthfully.

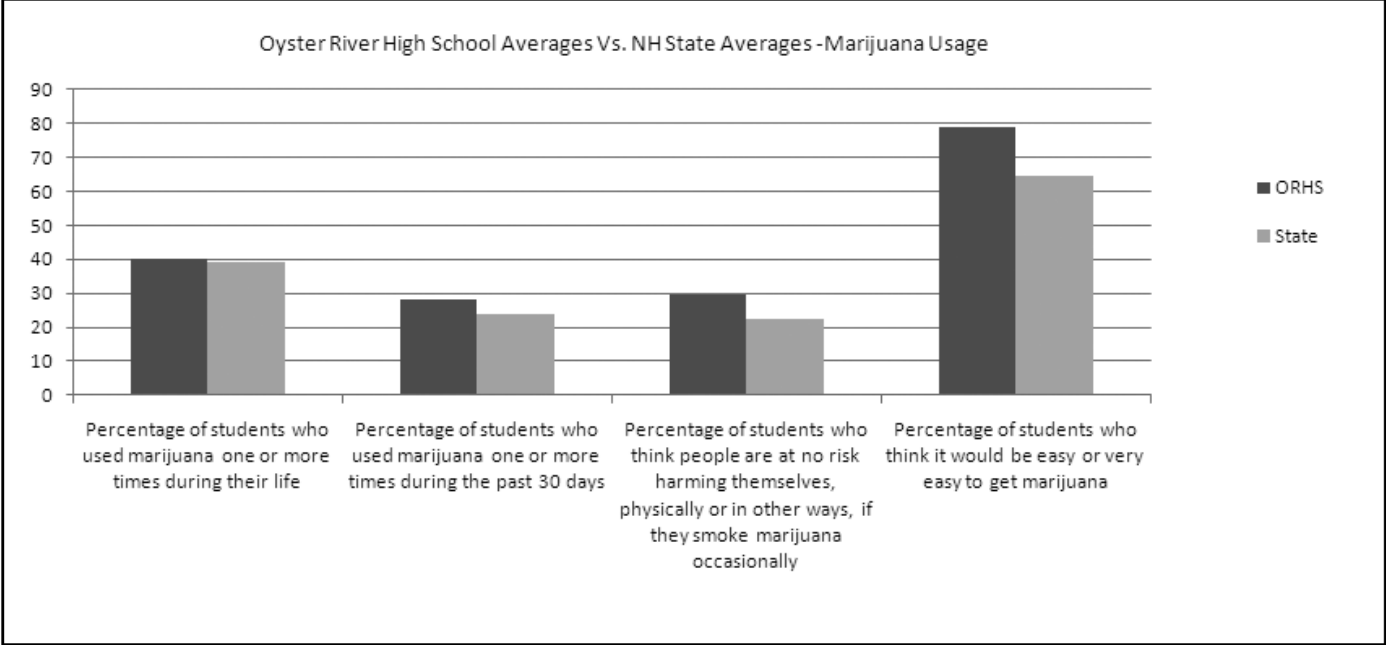
ORHS Senior Steven Rohde agreed with Moynihan saying, “A lot of kids don’t take it seriously and just give ridiculous answers because they think it’s funny.” The survey results are flawed yet they still may affect the long awaited decision regarding open campus. “No one takes it seriously. People in my class were laughing while taking it. Some of the Questions are super awkward and some are just sketchy,” said Moynihan.



Another problem with the results is that it shows how each class compared to one another. The class of 2011 had the highest amount of students who answered yes to the question “Q40. Percentage of students who used any form of cocaine, including powder, crack, or freebase one or more times during their life”. The results by class were 2009: 5.8%, 2010: 2.2%, 2011: 9.2%, and 2012: 2.4%. These numbers along with the fact that the Oyster River High School’s average was 29.4% answered yes to the following question: Q82. Percentage of students who think people are at no risk harming themselves, physically or in other ways, if they smoke marijuana occasionally. The New Hampshire state average was only 22.3%. So 7.2% more

Oyster River High School students think people are at no risk harming themselves, physically or in other ways, if they smoke marijuana occasionally. Having earned drug related nicknames in the past it does not come as a huge surprise to many students, ORHS Senior Timmy Short being one of them. “I’m surprised that it’s not higher because so many people smoke weed at this school,” said Short. It is a problem that all of

With statistics rallying for and against the school the results have shown both strengths and weaknesses. However with almost half of students questioned about the survey saying that they did not answer truthfully. Should the somewhat false results have an impact on the school’s decision on topics such as open campus? Of course you must take into account that all schools have some false results as Rogers acknowledged and pointed out that that is why the results have been compared to the states. It all depends on how much our school has lied in comparison to others. With open campus in jeopardy the survey that is usually taken as a joke is no longer that funny.

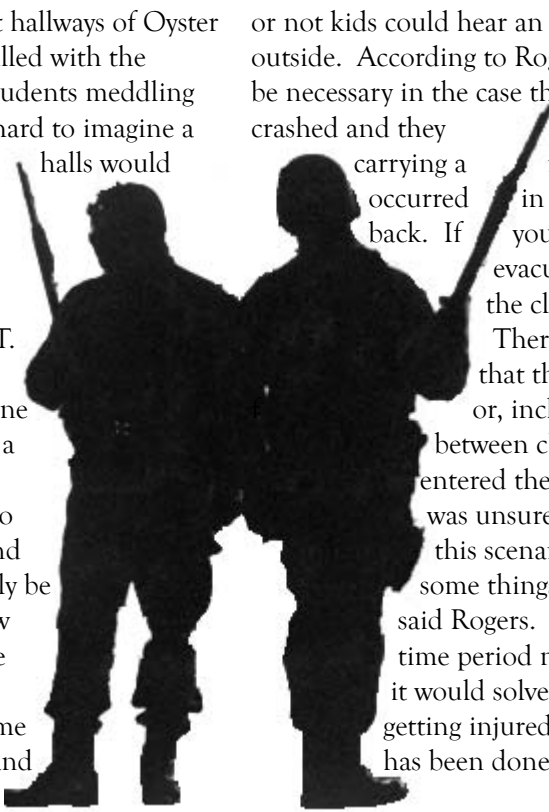


SWAT Team At Oyster River?



Erik Frid
News Writer

Often the nondescript hallways of Oyster River High School are filled with the laughter and voices of students meddling in-between classes. It's hard to imagine a situation where these halls would be filled with a fully armed SWAT team. However, according to Principal Laura Rogers having the local S.W.A.T. team, the Seacoast Emergency Response Team (SERT), use one of Oyster River's lockdowns as training is a definite possibility. Rogers said that the school is required to conduct two drills other than fire drills and one of these drills next year will most likely be a lockdown including SERT and other law enforcement. Since the planning is in the beginning stages Rogers was fuzzy on the details of what would happen if SERT came in. SERT is composed of highly trained and rigorously prepared patrol officers and detectives who are on call 24 hours a day and 365 days a year to respond to critical accidents such as hostage situations, armed barricaded suspects, high risk warrants, woodland searches or any other emergency situation that arises in the Seacoast area. Principal Rogers also explained that the high school will probably conduct a reverse evacuation to test whether



For one of Oyster River's lockdowns next fall a SWAT team will probably be coming in to go through training procedures. Photo courtesy of the Portsmouth Police Department website.

or not kids could hear an announcement when they're outside. According to Rogers a reverse evacuation would be necessary in the case that a tanker truck on route four crashed and they weren't sure if the truck was carrying a noxious gas. Rogers said that this occurred in Alton, New Hampshire a few years ago. If you're caught outside during a reverse evacuation Rogers said to go inside to the closest classroom. There are a plethora of other situations that the school may have to be prepared for, including the need for a lockdown in-between classes if someone who was armed entered the building at that time. Rogers was unsure of how the school would handle this scenario. "I think that there are some things that you can't prepare for," said Rogers. A lockdown drill during this time period may cause more problems than it would solve considering the risk of kids getting injured. Hopefully the preparation that has been done would help in this situation. According to Rogers the likelihood of something happening during the five minute breaks between classes is much less than a lockdown being necessary during class or lunch. We all know how much of a bummer a lockdown is—they waste very important, fun filled, and exhilarating class time. However, no one can deny that they are needed to prepare the school for the worst of circumstances.

How Did the Last Lockdown Go?

If the last lockdown in February was for real, Ms. Healy's class, Mr. Troy's class, and the gym classes would have been killed. All three of these classes, including some others, encountered problems during the last lockdown, but for the most part Oyster River High School Principal Laura Rogers doesn't think that there were any huge issues that occurred during the lockdown. According to Senior Scotty Mulligan he was in Ms. Healy's economics class when the lockdown was announced. Everyone was sitting on the ground and everything seemed to be going fine until Principal Mike McCann walked by and opened Ms. Healy's door which should have been locked. At least Ms. Healy was able to hear the announcement though. Both Mr. Troy's shop class and the gym classes were unable to hear the announcement due to the loud machines running in the wood shop and the noise of a typical gym class. Principal Rogers said that to avoid these problems in the future the school will install red flashing panic lights in Mr. Troy's room and in the gym and weight room. Both Mr. Troy and Mr. Morin think that these would be successful at alerting teachers and students about a lockdown. Additionally, people said that the loudspeaker in the cafeteria wasn't loud enough and the bell that signals a lockdown sounds too much like the class bell. To solve both of these Rogers said that the loudspeaker volumes will be increased and that there's a new "obnoxious" bell to signal lockdowns.



Senior Manu Putcha demonstrating incorrect lockdown procedure.



A group of Seniors and Librarian Wally Kenniston showing the crouch in the corner of a room technique.

What's Going on in Guidance?



Sara Usher
News Writer

Did you notice that the guidance department at Oyster River High School was looking rather empty lately? Well that is because two of the Oyster River High School guidance counselors will be absent this year on maternity leave. Heather Machanoff has left and is predicted to return sometime mid-May. Machanoff's students are currently being helped by Mrs. Seaman and when she leaves Dave Hawley will be taking over. Hawley is a social studies teacher at ORHS and David Jasinski will be taking over his classes when he covers in guidance. Hawley commented on Jasinski saying "He's amazing, I wouldn't have done it otherwise."

While the guidance Department seemed to have kept their cool some students are worried. "It's a little concerning because I'm not really sure who my guidance counselor is right now," said ORHS Junior Helen Siegel. Another ORHS Junior Emily Rodgers feels similar. "I don't think it'll be that bad" said Rodgers.

The guidance department is taking a very smart approach to the new challenge. They are taking care of all of the scheduling for the students next year, before they are down to two guidance counselors. Most people think that this is a very busy time for the guidance department as it is the time when they begin to build next year schedules. The guidance department is also in charge of AP and NECAP testing. "Mrs. Rainone does the AP testing and Mrs. Emrich does the NECAP so we're all set. The timing was actually okay" said Emily Ricker assuring students of the smooth transition.

The guidance department seems to have things under control. Hawley described the experience so far as "...a fun environment with a new set of challenges." The staff and students are confident with Mr. Hawley filling the gaps left by the departure of Mrs. Machanoff and Mrs. Seaman.

Hayden Machanoff



Date of Birth: March 4th, 2010

Moriah Lea Seaman

Carrigan Elise Seaman



Date of Birth: March 30th, 2010
Weight: 6 lbs 5 oz.

Date of Birth: March 30th, 2010
Weight: 5 lbs 13 oz.

Life on Mars:
What it’s *Really* Like at Spaulding High School



Ben Belanger
News Writer

High School for a day. Not exactly what I was hoping to hear. I left my house at 6:15 on January 26 with the advice I had received over the past few days echoing in my head.

I arrived to Spaulding at 7:20 to meet my guide for the day, Ben Douglas. I placed my hand on the doorknob to the guidance office just as a mildly-obese, bleached blonde girl opened it from the other side and pushed me out of the way, shouting obscenities. Five minutes in and this was already shaping up to be an interesting day.

I was slightly surprised upon meeting Douglas. He didn’t exactly fit the “trashy” Spaulding stereotype which I had envisioned. Walking in with a distinct swagger, Douglas was an athletic and seemingly popular kid.

After meeting Douglas, the first stop of the day was advanced math with Mrs. Georgia Blougouras. “I’ve worked here for 25 years,” said Blougouras, in a somewhat nasally math teacher voice. “I enjoy teaching the students here. I teach all upper-level classes, so I have highly-motivated students.” Blougouras’s “highly-motivated students” acted much differently than the students in my classes at Oyster River. There was no texting and hardly even a whisper in the class. Hats were removed and not a single person left the class during the 90-minute block.

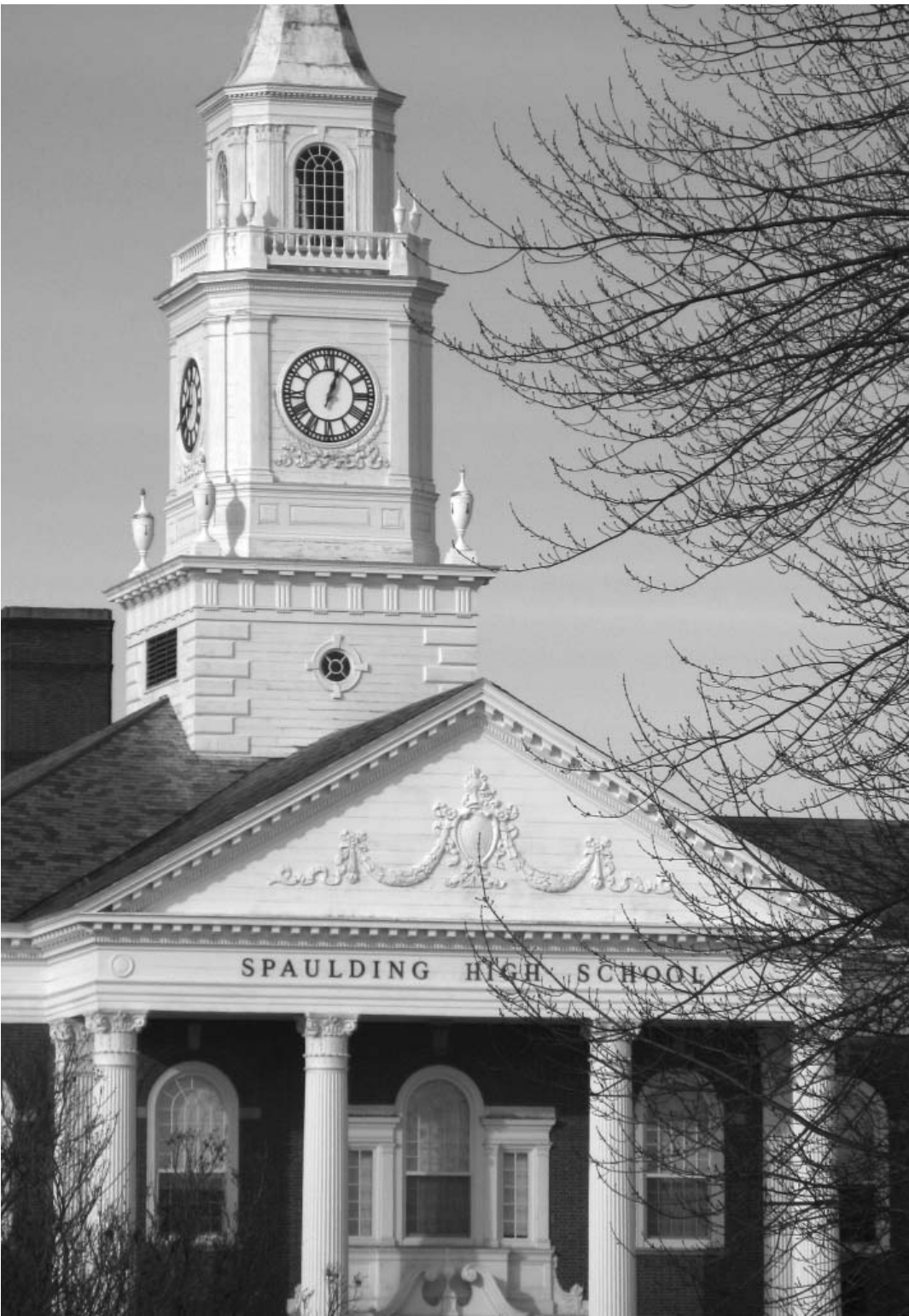
When it comes to the block scheduling, SHS History Teacher, Alan Stone is not a fan. “I hate block scheduling,” explained Stone. “I’m rushed through my curriculum, I don’t get to know the students and there’s a higher failing rate. I can’t work with them the way I want to work with them because I just don’t have the time.” Spaulding High School runs on a block schedule, meaning that each semester students have four classes, each 90 minutes every day. According to Stone, his troubles may soon disappear as there is an initiative by the faculty to get rid of blocks.

Stone was an interesting character for sure, possibly a little bit grumpy. “See that picture over there?” said Stone, pointing at a picture of Abraham Lincoln which he had posted in the back of the class. “If you look at that picture you’ll notice he has a bullet-hole in his head.” I looked back to see a bullet-hole drawn on the former-President’s head, with a stream of sharpie colored blood running down his face. “I could provide you with books and articles about why I hate Abraham Lincoln,” said Stone, while pulling out an article which he had prepared to give to another student.

The rest of my day wasn’t quite as entertaining as Mr. Stone’s US History class and definitely not as interesting as I had been told it would be by the students at Oyster River. As you can tell I was not stabbed while at Spaulding and against the odds, I came back alive. As a matter of fact, there was no violence at all that I saw in my day at Spaulding.

The reason for this, according to Spaulding Senior Brian Bellio, is because of third-year Principal John Shea. “We had a ton of fights,” explained Bellio. “My sophomore year,

“Don’t get stabbed,” they said. “Make sure you don’t die.” Advice before leaving for a vacation to Compton? Nope. Last words before joining the military? Nah. This was the advice I received before attending Spaulding



Entrance to Spaulding High School



Douglas (right), seen here with his cousin Shannon

there were 12 fights in one day.” At the time the penalty for fighting had been a three-day out of school suspension. As this was Shea’s first year as Principal, this was quite the

“We probably have more vending machines than brains here [at Spaulding,]” said Douglas

test for him. He chose to dramatically change the penalty from 3 days to 10 days suspension – a consequence that could potentially cause a student to fail his or her classes. Violence has decreased dramatically at the school, as the no-tolerance policy leaves any student who does anything to hurt another student with the same penalty, regardless of whether or not

they started the fight. When it comes to drugs on the other hand, according to Mr. Apt’s AP Economics class, Spaulding might just live up to the negative stereotypes. I was told that the common drugs at Spaulding are mainly tobacco and marijuana. Before the class started, I paid a visit to the bathroom down the hall where I noticed some suspicious activity. Huddled in a corner seemingly built for drug deals was a small group of students speaking quietly. As it turns out, it had been a deal going on for a student to receive tobacco. Outside of school, drugs are pretty common as well. “Alcohol is pretty big outside of school,” said Bellio. Things at Oyster River are a little different in the eyes of ORHS Substitute Teacher, Rob Heuchling. Although Heuchling does not view violence at ORHS as a problem, he believes the students at Oyster River have earned their title as “Oyster Reefer.” “I don’t think violence is a problem at our school, but there is a lot more marijuana than people tend to believe,” said Heuchling. Principal Rogers agrees that violence isn’t an issue at ORHS. “We probably have three or four fights in a whole year,” said Rogers. There are approximately 1550 students at Spaulding in comparison to the 700 or so here at ORHS. The differences in communities and school size may be an explanation for the differences between Spaulding and ORHS students. As far as SHS students are concerned, ORHS students are “yuppies” and “rich snobs.” Oyster River students generally view Spaulding kids as “rednecks”, “trashy”, “poor” and “ghetto.” These differences in opinion could be due to a pretty obvious answer – tax dollars. Spaulding spends an average of \$9,600 per student per year – a seemingly large amount of money. However, Oyster River spends a \$15,425 average on its high school students. This difference of approximately \$6,000 per student means that a class at Oyster River that

Continued on page 3...

Facts and Figures



ORHS



SHS

of Students

680

About 1,500

Yearly Cost per Student

\$15,000

\$9,500

08-09 Dropout Percentage

1.3%

12%

% of Students Who Go on to a 4-Year College Post-Graduation

72%

30-35%



Spaulding (continued from page 3)

would have a max of 22 students could have upwards of 32 at Spaulding.

Rogers views this difference in spending as a major advantage for ORHS students, but also a problem for Spaulding students. “You’ll probably find that Oyster River pays better and our classes are smaller,” explained Rogers. “Your experience in class, the quality of your teachers – you’re getting a richer education experience.”

ORHS Assistant Principal, Mike McCann agrees with Rogers that Oyster River students have a huge advantage. “Class size is one of the great things about OR,” explained McCann. “The class sizes are always looked at and we stick to the school board guidelines.” The relatively high teacher-to-student ratio at ORHS, according to McCann, not only provides more help to struggling students but also keeps our school safe.

SHS Principal Shea could not agree more with McCann. “[Spaulding] is a phenomenal school,” explained Shea, “but being so big is a disadvantage.” Spaulding is made up of students from Rochester, Gonnick and Wakefield. There is increasing gang violence in Rochester according to Shea, and violence in school can be hard to notice in a school with so many students. “If students are making bad decisions, it’s much easier to notice in a smaller school.”

ORHS Social Studies Teacher Matt Pappas is a resident of Gonnick, NH, and has two daughters who technically would be attending Spaulding High School. “We’re hoping to move by that time,” explained Pappas. Although he can see some of the positives to going to a school like Spaulding, SHS just is not a place where Pappas would like to see his children. “Hearing about the issues that go on there scares me,” explained Pappas. “The opportunities at a school like Oyster River far outweigh those at a school like Spaulding. There are better educational practices here at Oyster River.”

As far as SHS Principal Shea is concerned there are some pretty major benefits to attending a school like Spaulding that people often overlook. “The biggest advantage,” said Shea, “is that you can offer more classes. I think we beat OR in types of classes available.” Spaulding also offers a technical program to students who may not be considering a four-year college after high school, which is something that Oyster River students have to attend in Somersworth or Dover. Senior Anthony

DeVito is one student who is taking advantage of the tech program at Spaulding. “Our tech program is excellent,” said DeVito, who is planning on having a job in the medical field. “Through the tech program I can go to several clinical sites... like Rehab 3.” According to Shea, this is a necessary part of their school, as the percentage of students going on to a 4-year college after attending Spaulding is about 30-35%.

Things are slightly different at ORHS, according to Principal Rogers. 72% of students go on to a 4-year college right after attending ORHS. This figure doesn’t include students who choose to take a gap year, so the percentage



An American flag hanging in a SHS classroom. Few flags are found at ORHS, and the Pledge of Allegiance is not said. Spaulding students say the Pledge every day in class.

should actually be higher. Sure, Rochester is an entirely different area than Durham – there are socioeconomic differences and differences in priority. Is this the only reason why double the percentage of students go to a 4-year college at ORHS compared to SHS?

ORHS Language Teacher Barbara Milliken has her own idea to explain the gap. “People really value a college education here - we have a high percentage of kids who go on to college,” said Milliken. Milliken believes that although the problem is mainly the socioeconomics of the two areas, it has something to do with the number of kids in class, as well.

“We live in a big bubble of security – we can find the kids who are falling through the cracks and figure out how to help them get back on track.”

The dramatic decrease in violence at SHS was not the only change that has occurred at Spaulding since the arrival of Shea. “Two years ago, the dropout rate of SHS was about 25%, meaning that with an incoming class of 400 freshmen, 100 of them would not make it to graduation,” explained Shea. “We cut that in half last year, it’s now around 12%.”

Many ORHS students and even some SHS students who I interviewed believe that Oyster River students get a better education than Spaulding students. “Overall, I think people value education a little more at Oyster River,” explained ORHS Junior Mike Bilynsky. However, some SHS students like Anthony DeVito have quite the opposite opinion. “The students who apply themselves can succeed at Spaulding,” explained DeVito. Another SHS student left economics class early to meet with representatives from Cornell University – a prime example of a student able to excel at Spaulding. Shea agrees with the student perspectives. “We’re a bigger school, it’s a different community here... but if you take our best, highest performing kids, they’re going to be the same with those at ORHS.”

A big school like Spaulding isn’t right for everyone, but 18- year Teacher, Alan Stone couldn’t be happier than at SHS. “I love the students at Spaulding,” explained Stone. “They’re real – not phony.”

Shea couldn’t agree more. “There are a lot of kids getting a good education here, but there’s a really good energy inside the school to make it better,” said Shea. “There’s a lot of pride at Spaulding.”

Self-proclaimed “coolest girl at Spaulding,” Senior Alison Newbury puts it quite simply; “you gotta love Spaulding.”

Bobcat Bistro

The Battle Between Nutrition and Taste



Alex Buck
News Writer

Every month we see fewer and fewer students venturing to the infamous “Bobcat Cafe” at Oyster River High School. So what is the Cafeteria doing wrong? Throughout the past couple of years the Oyster River High School has been reforming their menus to create a more nutritious meal for the students. However the more nutritious they make the food the worse the food becomes in the eyes of the students. “It’s not very good, said junior, Brianna Datti. Along with a few number of students eating school lunches the Bobcat Bistro has accumulated a significant amount of debt.

One of the main reasons for this nutritious reform at the High School is because of the creation of the wellness nutrition committee. The committee which consists of Oyster River Faculty and students banned

certain items and put restrictions on what the Cafeteria could make. Some of the requirements the cafeteria must meet are no Trans fats, must have half whole wheat, and no frying. Previous to this nutrition reform almost all of the food purchased by the school was purchased by the government, mostly because of how inexpensive it is. However the district has begun to look at alternate and more nutrition distributors of food. “We are going through a transition from government surplus that is cheap to more nutritious food,” said school board member, David Taylor.

The Bobcat Bistro is not run or coordinated in any way by the high school itself. All Food services within the district are controlled by the same administrators that work for the district, making it very difficult for faculty, staff, or students to have any say in what they eat. “It’s been a rough change but the cafeteria staff have been learning how to work with the rules,” said senior class president and member of the nutrition committee, Chandler Hull. “We would love to do a lot more homemade stuff,” stated Mrs. Finacchiaro, staff worker at the Bobcat Bistro.

There are multiple factors that explain why the Bobcat Bistro has begun to lose money. One factor is the decrease in students purchasing school lunches. “Yes, there has been a decrease in meals purchased,” said Child Nutrition Director, Harlene Batchelder. “Last year was our worse year, continued Mrs. Finacchiaro. According to Mrs. Finacchiaro the Bobcat Bistro would make around 60-70 salads a day in past years but now only around 20 salads are made per day. Also the elimination of the all famous breaded chicken paddy at the Bistro has tainted the student’s view of cafeteria food. “It’s healthy but doesn’t taste as it used to be,” said senior, Zach Wasserman. “They need to find a balance between being healthy and tasting good,” Continued Wasserman.

Even though it seems that most students are displeased



Coolers within the Bobcat Bistro



Bobcat Bistro at Oyster River High School

with the current menu, many students are quite pleased with the food. “The food has definitely got better, I think it’s a lot better than most schools,” said Zach Lewis, senior at ORHS. “There have been improvements that students don’t see because they’ve written off the cafeteria food altogether after the initial changes,” stated Hull.





Hannah Lonstein
Features Writer

Walk Walk Fashion Baby: Spring Edition

Spring is coming and you need to go out looking your best. What other way to do this than by dressing your best? Here are some runway trends transformed to fit your style. So get out there and show off your stuff!

ON THE RUNWAY



Cargo jackets are great things to have in your wardrobe. They can be worn at any occasion too. Dress it up for a fun night out by buttoning it up with a cute cami under to show your fun and flirty side! They can also be worn casually, unbuttoned with a t-shirt for a day out in the sun with friends. These can be found at most department stores for a great price. Also this particular jacket is at Victorias Secret for a slightly higher price but great quality. So save up your money and get shopping!

Gladiator Sandals are a great way to dress up any outfit while also being comfortable. I know it seems like a joke that these shoes could be comfortable for everyone. But the straps are adjustable and the flat soles are just as comfortable as a pair of flip flops. They come in all sorts of colors so don't worry too much about matching your outfits. These can be found at any department store for a great price. This display of sandals is from Victoria's Secret. So get out and make your feet happy and get a pair of these strappy shoes!

Prints are always fun to play with. Especially this spring! There are so many new and fun prints out there for you to try. From leopard print to tie-dye to colorful stripes. They have everything for you in blasting bright colors! These tank tops are great a deal at Pac Sun but you can also try DELiA*s , or any department stores they are sure to have these in stock for great prices! The fun doesn't have to stop with tank tops, look for colorful dresses, shirts or even shorts with prints.

FOR YOU



All photos courtesy of Google Images

Arturo Wins State Poetry Out Loud Contest!

Congratulations to Arturo Jaras-Watts who is the winner of the State Poetry Out Loud competition! The requirements of this contest for each participant was to have one poem that was pre-20th Century and another poem that is less than 25 lines. Arturo performed "To His Coy Mistress" by Andrew Marvell which was written in the 1600's. His second poem was "The Empty Dance Shoes" by Cornelius Ead. In order to earn a spot in the finals he had to perform a third poem which was "The Minefield" by Diane Thiel. Jaras-Watts shared his thoughts on the achievement on Facebook. "It turns out, poetry is pretty darn cool. Everybody can enjoy it. I hope that the \$500 check that our library got will go towards buying more poetry books for the students." Arturo is now being sent to Washington D.C to compete in the National Poetry Out Loud competition. "I am thrilled for the opportunity to travel to D.C. and represent Oyster River. I'm going to do everything I can to take the cake there," says Arturo. Congratulations on a great accomplishment Arturo and best of luck in D.C!



Photos courtesy of Google Images and the ORHS homepage.



Arturo Jaras-Watts receiving his many awards including \$200 cash and scholarship awards to Southern New Hampshire University.

The Voyage to Freedom

Are You Ready To Live On Your Own?



Anna Reed
Features Writer

After you graduate from high school, your whole life can start. It's your first opportunity to be a sustained adult in the world, and you can truly make your own choices. Many people strive to move out of their parents houses as quick as possible, and begin living on their own right after high school. I'm one of those people who feel like the second they grab that diploma, they're going to pack their bags, but many people don't know how hard it is to live on your own especially at such an early stage in life.

Senior Ashlee Rollins decided to move out from her house and live on her own at an early age. "I haven't lived at home since about a week before Christmas vacation," Rollins explains. Due to various issues, she decided to live on her own through the rest of high school, "The best thing about living away from home is the freedom. I don't have to be home at any certain time, which is nice." Rollins sustains herself with a job, and understands the many costs of living on your own, "I would definitely say that you need a job and need to save some money before moving out on your own, I've worked since I was old enough too, but I know a lot of people at our school still rely on "Mommy and Daddy" for everything and it doesn't work like that when you're on your own. I personally like the responsibility and being able to say that I do it on my own." Rollins has found a new apartment and is happy to be moving into her new space. "The hardest thing about being away from home is missing my mom once in a while, and her homemade dinners."

Luckily for Ashlee, she hasn't moved that far away, and has the option of going back home to visit if she wants to, Art teacher Tim Lawrence on the other hand, and didn't have the same option, "When I was 17, I moved away to Alaska to live with my sister. The fact of the matter is I wasn't going to school when I was living in NY; it bored me. So I went away." Lawrence's sister became his legal guardian, but he felt like he was



Is the apartment route for you?
(Photo courtesy of Google Images)



...Or is waiting the best bet?
(Photos courtesy of Google Images)

basically living on his own, "I was living with a family member, so I wasn't completely living on my own, but I came and went when I wanted to." One of the main lessons many people get when they live on their own for the first time is ownership of their actions. "I definitely grew up fast," says Lawrence, "I had to grow up and realize the consequences of my actions not only on myself, but of my sister who I was living with."

After deciding to move out, you have to think of your plan of attack. It's almost impossible to just pick up your life and move out without money and a set plan. If you've never taken a look at the amount of money your parents pay to keep life rolling, ask them. Most of the time, you will have to pay a deposit, first

month and last month's rent. Also, you usually have to lease for at least a year. Moving out takes time, and commitment, so you really have to sit down and decide if it's the right thing for you to do. Rent isn't the only thing you'll have to pay for. Food is one of the most important expenses that are usually more expensive than you think. High School kids spend a lot of money on food, most of the dollars going to the morning coffee. As an experiment, I added up all the money I spent on food for the whole week. I didn't eat anything my parents bought; I had to buy all my food with my own money. It added up to a lot, and it was definitely more money that I wanted to spend. My paychecks are relatively pathetic, working a minimum wage job a couple days a week. But this simple experiment has made me realize that I would have to save up a lot to even attempt living on my own, I would also need to work a lot more.

Some people choose to go the opposite route from living on their own and they choose to stay at home during college to save extra money. Senior Conrad Nawrocki is choosing to save his money by living at home while going to college at UNH in the fall. "Why would I want to pay all that money for housing when my house is right down the street and I don't have to pay a thing?" Nawrocki says. Due to the economic crisis, many graduating students are putting aside the urge to be free and live on their own to save money later.

Whether you decide to stay home, or live the adventure of living on your own, it takes a lot of responsibility and planning. Take a step back and look at your current situation. Do you have enough money saved away? Are you going to be able to make more money so that you can sustain yourself? Are you going to stay close, or are you going to go in head first and live across the country, or maybe on the other side of the world? Ask the questions, and stick with your gut, but when it comes down to it, it's about making your own decisions about your life and it's just one step closer to independence.

Oyster River Talent Show!

Will Mike Crotty and Ayan Imai-Hall win the talent show for the second year in a row? Or will Mr. Paradis steal the crown? Maybe AJ Reynolds will rap his way to victory? Can Caitlin Olson, Iesha Crotty and Michelle Hobbs dance for the gold?

Come to the Yearbook Talent Show tonight at 7:30 in the auditorium! It is only \$5 to get in! There are awesome prizes that will be raffled off, and fun competitions between acts!

If more than 200 people attend - a yearbook will be raffled off!





Samantha Ackerman
Features Writer

Your Friends Could Be Famous!

“It’s a dream,” explains Senior Ashley Dupont, “so you do whatever it takes. And luckily, YouTube is easy to use and might help you get one step closer to achieving that dream.” It used to take bands and artists years to pursue their dream of becoming famous. Now with the help of YouTube and Myspace, bands and artists are becoming recognized for their talent much earlier on. Technology has enabled us to find millions of talented people with a click of a mouse. 20 years ago this wouldn’t have been possible.

Bands and artists are now being found through sources like YouTube and MySpace and becoming famous quickly. Even talent scouts are looking on YouTube and other sources to find the *next best thing*. The fact that people are able to become famous by putting a home video on the internet is amazing. Justin Bieber is one of the people most famous for being found on YouTube. He made many home movies and posted them on YouTube. Now he’s signed with Usher and has millions of fans.

Even at our own school we have people posting things on YouTube and MySpace to try to make a name for them. One example is Jacob Brown a senior at Oyster River High School. He has his songs posted on his MySpace page and plans to always do so no matter what band he is in. Brown’s hope with putting his music on MySpace was to show other people his talent and enjoy his music. “It’s nice to try to have your songs heard by more people other than your cats,” explains Brown.



Matthew McCarthy playing the drums
Pictures taken from FaceBook

Matthew McCarthy also has some videos on YouTube. McCarthy says it’s a way for his friends and family to view his music easily. McCarthy also loves that he’s able to get feedback from people that are not just his close friends. Although this is something that he loves to do McCarthy is also very realistic about his future. “I would love to have a career in making music someday but not right now. I have too much other stuff I want to do first,” explains McCarthy. “I’m going to college for music and then grad school.” By going on YouTube and MySpace it gives musicians a chance to get others all over the world to hear what you are able to do. “Going to a Coffee House is a great way to get the community to support you,” explains Ashley Dupont. “But when you’re online you have the whole world’s attention.” Dupont has had a YouTube video up for some time now. Her goal was just that to have people other than her community to recognize her talent. “The music business isn’t easy but it’s what I want to do,” says Dupont. “Nobody has a right to tell me what I can and cannot dream.”

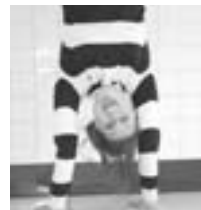
Overall I think that YouTube and MySpace have helped thousands of musicians chance to have fans outside your town. It’s helped producers find potential artists and bands. Being known for your music is a wish many people share and hopefully Brown and Dupont achieve that dream. “Pretty much I believe if you have a dream, go for it,” explains Brown. “For all we know, we only have one life, and there’s no sense in wasting it away in a cubicle.”



Jacob Brown playing his guitar
Picture taken from MySpace



From Google Images



Hannah Lonstein
Features Writer

Play Your Hearts Out Kiddos!

Some of you may have attended the most recent coffee house during Winterfest and have noticed that there were a lot of underclassmen performers. To be more specific there were a lot of gutsy freshmen who approached the stage; all with their guitars in hand and some with their own lyrics. I found myself feeling envious of these girls because I am no where near their level of musical talent. Here is some behind the scenes information about four upcoming musical gals in the school.

1. How long have you been singing? Instruments?
2. Do you write your own songs? If yes, what inspires you? What do you write about?
3. Favorite song to sing?
4. Future plans? Career? American Idol?



Katie Levine performing at
the Winterfest Coffeehouse



Name: Katie Levine

1. I started singing when I was little and I taught myself how to play guitar about a year ago.
2. Yes I write my own songs, I write about things that happen in my life or sometimes things that I’m thinking about.
- 3.Hallelujah
- 4.I would like singing to be something I continue to do in the future but who knows? As for American Idol, that would be cool. It’s a possibility I guess.

Name: Allie Harris

- Allie Harris performing at the Winterfest Coffeehouse
1. I have been singing ever since I could talk. I started taking piano lessons when I was 4 years old. And I taught myself how to play the guitar 2 years ago.
 2. Yes I do, I write about anything that’s going on. But it doesn’t always have to be related to my life. Sometimes it’s just random.
 3. It changes, but right now probably John Mayer or something I wrote.
 4. I would like to have a career with singing but probably not American Idol. I don’t think it’s for me.

Name: Willow Bergeron

1. I have been singing all of my life but in recent years I have worked hard to make my voice “listenable.” And I taught myself how to play the guitar last year.
2. Yes I do, I am inspired by people I meet or things that happen in my life. The sound of my songs are mostly inspired by my favorite musicians.
3. At the Hop by Devendra Banhart
4. In the future I just want to be able to sing and make people happy. And I’ll never do American Idol.

Name: Olivia Moore



Olivia Moore performing at
the Winterfest Coffeehouse

1. I never really started singing, I just always have. I’ve never taken lessons or anything. I’ve been playing piano for 9 years and guitar for just 1 and a half.
2. Yes, the outdoors and other musicians inspire me the most, some of my best lyrics have been written while I’m sitting outside or on a long car ride listening to Jack Johnson or Bob Marley. I write about nature and the meaning of life and time and happiness and good memories and problems in the world. Basically I just try to make sense of complex issues and feelings and put them down on paper. Doesn’t always turn out so well...
3. I don’t have a favorite song, but I love singing jazzy stuff.
4. It would be amazing to have a career in music but I still have a lot to learn and a long way to go. And I’m not sure if I want music to become a commercial thing for me. For the moment I’m just trying to figure out my style and perform as often as possible to get over my nerves. I don’t really watch American Idol but my aunt is obsessed with it and wants to pay for and drive me to audition when I’m old enough. So yeah, maybe!



Willow Bergeron performing at
the Winterfest Coffeehouse



Anna Reed
Features Writer

Fighting the G.E.D. Stigma

Find Out What the GED Test is all About

You are a failure if you take the GED. People who don't get a high school diploma you will go nowhere in life. Once you drop out of high school, that's it. There are a lot of pre-conceived ideas about the GED, but the truth is many people don't know much about it. Not only is the

easy way for them to finish high school after they were dragged out of it. The GED was then created for veterans to test their knowledge from their High School career. The GED allowed veterans to go out into the work force and show that they had the knowledge of a high school graduate, but without the high school diploma. For many people, the GED was

a great way for them to pick up their lives again after the war, and it helped many soldiers.

Millions of Americans take the GED every year, and it is open to anyone who needs it. If you need to leave high school before you graduate, regardless of the reason, it gives you the chance to get the diploma's equivalent.

Director of
Admissions at

16,500 applications." Even though the statistics are small, it is not impossible, "Most of our applicants and students have a traditional high school diploma. We won't, however, deny a person with a GED just because they have a GED. If they can show evidence that they have developed the necessary skill-set to be successful in the classroom, they will be accepted."

But don't think that the GED is a walk in the park, or an easy way to just drop out of school; the GED is like any other standardized test that requires studying and preparation. The test is compiled of questions ranging from Math, to English and Science. Because the test is supposed to evaluate your overall knowledge, the test touches on a wide variety of subjects. It's not a cheap decision either! In the state of New Hampshire, the cost of the GED test is \$65. You can't take the GED online; you have to go to specific testing facilities, and although you can retake the test as many times as you want (after paying a \$15 fee), the scores won't be combined.

The GED has changed lives of many Americans over the years, allowing better jobs and more opportunities compared to if you never took the test at all. The GED could increase an adult's income up to \$350,000 in a lifetime compared to if they had no diploma. Also many employers will favor a GED recipient over someone with no high school diploma or GED.

So get the facts: the GED was created to help people who never got a chance to finish their schooling. Over the past 68 years the GED has changed the lives of millions of Americans and it has given a second chance to many adults who strive to continue their education.

GED



GED participants patiently waiting to take the test.
(Photo courtesy of Google Images)

GED an important part of the American education system, stemming from World War II, but it is an opportunity for people to get a second chance. So before you judge the GED, get the facts- it's more important than you think.

The GED or the General Education Development Test was created in 1942. Many of the soldiers during WWII were young boys straight out of high school, so when they came back from war, there wasn't an

the University of New Hampshire Robert McGann explains that although they don't have as many applications from GED recipients, it doesn't stop people from getting into the university, "This past year and in the current year the figures are small: There were 5 applicants with GED's for fall 2009, 3 admit/enrolled; 1 withdrew before decision was made and 1 was admitted and did not enroll. We had 4 applicants for 2010. In both years mentioned, we had about

They Got The GED?

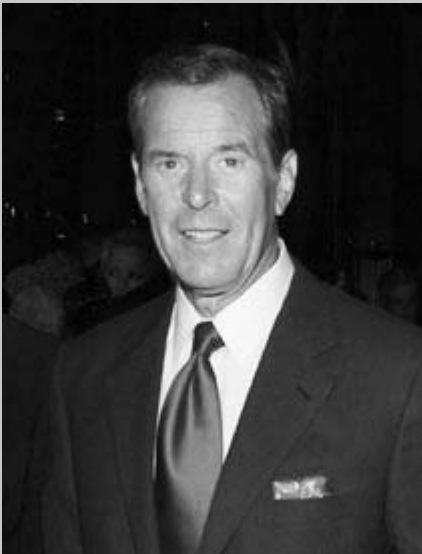
Famous people who earned their GED:



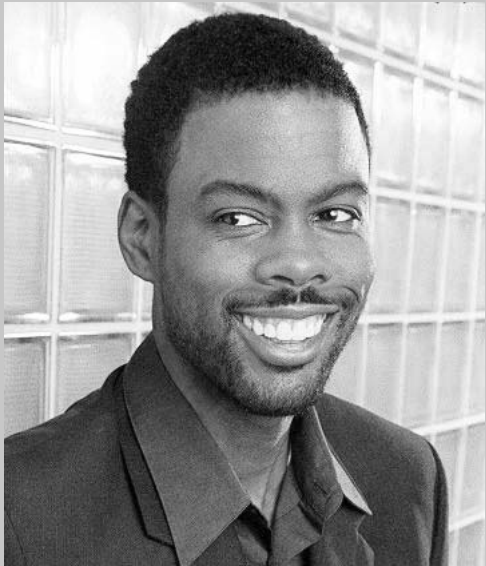
Actor and Comedian
Bill Cosby



Beatles' Member
George Harrison



Respected News Anchor
Peter Jennings



Comedian
Chris Rock



Academy Award Winning Actress
Hilary Swank



Wendy's Founder
Dave Thomas

Who you gonna call?



Erik Frid
News Writer

“Our barn is very old and there are two parts, it is kind of shaped like a T,” explained Oyster River High School Senior Leslie-Ann McGowan. “ The back barn is the older one and it has a hayloft that is very creepy at night. One time I was in the back barn with [Oyster River High School Senior] Margot [Popecki] and we heard screaming, like bloody murder screaming, and no one else was in the barn. The scariest thing was one day another girl and I were finishing cleaning the back barn. We have a machete...that hangs on the wall so we can cut open the bales of hay. It is on a hook so that it can’t just slide off. It also wasn’t windy that day. The machete came off the wall and landed right at my feet...I was 5 feet away from it.”

Whether it’s a shadowy figure in the corner of your eye, footsteps across the floor, or an object flying through the air these events could be looked at two ways: coincidence with a scientific explanation or something more. A 2003 Harris Poll survey found that 51 percent of all American adults believe in ghosts. With popular television shows like History Channel’s “Ghost Hunters,” interest in the paranormal has never been greater. “Everyone wants to be a ghost hunter,” said psychic medium Isabeau Esby.

Beliefs in ghosts at Oyster River High School in Durham, New Hampshire are somewhat split. Senior Jake O’Leary tries to keep an open mind, “There’s always a possibility for anything.” O’Leary said that he stayed in a supposedly haunted house and that he got a little freaked out because the dog was barking at nothing all night. However, he’s still not completely sold, “I haven’t seen anything so I can’t know if [ghosts] exist.”

Fellow senior Daniel Duvall is very skeptical of any paranormal activity. “There’s never been anything close to proving ghosts...people who claim that they’ve seen ghosts are looking for attention,”

Those who do believe in ghosts, however, would be interested to know that Portsmouth, New Hampshire is known by avid paranormal enthusiasts as a hot spot for ghosts and hauntings. “There is no doubt about it, Portsmouth is one of New England’s most haunted cities,” says an article on the ghost related website, HollowHill.com. In fact, “Ghost Hunters” has come to Portsmouth on two separate occasions: they went to the Isles of Shoals and the Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse. Also, books have been written about haunted places in Portsmouth, like Roxie J. Zwicker’s, [Haunted Portsmouth: Spirits and Shadows of the Past](#).

However, stories of paranormal activity are not limited to Portsmouth. In fact one of the most documented locations is the Three Chimneys Inn in Durham. Other speculated haunted places can also be found in Dover and Newcastle.

In the case of McGowan she says that her barn is ghost free. “We had this lady who was an energy person [come] to do work with my horse...she said that the ghost whose name was apparently Henry, was friends with my horse. She ended up helping him leave [and] I was next to her when she did this and I did feel like there was something next to me and we haven’t had anything since then.”



Bill Murray sneaking up on the librarian ghost from Ghost Busters, 1984.

What is a ghost?

For a skeptic, a ghost is an explanation for something that’s cause may not be apparent. A scientific explanation for some events associated with the paranormal can be attributed to the effects of infrasound which are noises that are below 20 hertz and therefore are too low for humans to hear. Infrasound had been reported to cause anxiety, uneasiness, extreme sorrow, nervous feelings of revulsion or fear, chills down the spine, feelings of pressure on the chest, and hallucinations. Infrasound can be caused when strong gusts of wind clash with chimneys or towers and it can also be emmitted by large machines. They can penetrate through very thick walls. Tunnel-shaped corridors are also perfect shapes for infrasound. This is the reason why people often come across “ghosts” in long corridors. It has also been associated with the movement of tectonic plates.

Nonetheless there is controversy with infrasound being an explanation for all paranormal phenomenon. An argument is that drivers have no optical illusions when cars overcome the air drag at a really high speed when the

level of infrasound waves is very high. Also, infrasound does not account for phenomenon like McGowan’s machete flying off the wall.

There are many theories surrounding the idea of ghosts. According to paranormal experts there are two types of hauntings: residual and spiritual. Dave Juliano of TheShadowLands.net explains a residual haunting as “ a playback of a past event.” He says of residual hauntings on the website, “The apparitions involved are not spirits, they are ‘recordings’ of the event. I believe that this will be the first type of haunting that main stream researchers will recognize and study.”

“Video and audio tapes,” Juliano continues, “capture sounds and images on a film of special material that has been oxidized or rusted. Certain building materials, such as slate used in older castles and stone structures and iron nails used in many older buildings, have properties similar to that of the tapes. When a traumatic event occurs or a time of heightened emotions, these materials record the event for future playback. Everything is made up of energy and energy cannot be destroyed. The materials store the energy created by these traumatic events and plays them

back at a later time. The Tower of London’s ghost of Anne Boleyn and the Brown Lady of Raynham Hall are two famous examples of residual hauntings. We are not sure what causes the playback of the events, that still remains a mystery.”

The second type of haunting, spiritual, is what a person would imagine a ghost to be. Unlike a residual haunting, a spiritual haunting would obviously involve the spirit of the person. According to psychic medium Esby, this sort of apparition “has not crossed over yet.” She says that when someone dies their soul sheds the body and either “crosses over” or stays behind. When the soul stays behind, whether voluntary or involuntary, it is called “in-between.” In the “in-between” this is when the soul can be seen as an apparition. Fiona Broome, founder of HollowHill.com, defines an apparition as “a ghost that appears to have some physical form, usually an echo (or after-image) of his or her appearance when in this world.”

Esby provides a scientific explanation for an apparition by using the simple properties of matter one would learn in middle school science. She says that all matter vibrates and therefore nothings solid. The less something vibrates the more solid it is and the more something vibrates the less solid it becomes. Esby claims that a spirit vibrates so fast that it cannot be seen and it needs to slow down for it to appear. Because of its nature, Broome says that a spirit “continues to exist as a form without physical constraints.”

As in the 1999 movie, “The Sixth Sense,” it is believed that some people have the ability to see apparitions while others can’t. “In my opinion,” said Broome, “some people can see apparitions just as some people have a very finely-tuned sense of color-but others are color blind. Some people can sing, and some of us are tone deaf. Some people are so gifted in terms of odors, they become testers for perfumes and products where fragrance is important. Some people are able to see apparitions.”

Esby thinks that the ability to see a ghost is much simpler than that. She says that if people truly accept the idea of the paranormal they will have more experiences. She also thinks that spirits are very common. “If you’re talking about your grandma and feel the hairs on your neck stand up it’s because you’re talking about her and she’s closer.” Esby also suggests if one were to go to the same place every day for about 10 minutes and verbalize to spirits and record these sessions, he or she would hear more and more voices and evidence of spirits on these recordings-even if the location is simply in his or her bedroom. Any noises or voices that are recorded with no apparent source are deemed an E.V.P. (Electronic Voice Phenomenon). While there could be a plausible explanation for an E.V.P., it is often assumed that it came from a spirit.

Could these unexplained phenomenon and paranormal activity that people experience be explained with the scientific explanation of infrasound? Could they be a result of residual or spiritual hauntings? Or could they be something else? You decide.

Ghost Hunters ORHS

After hearing about all these haunted places and creepy occurrences right in my backyard I couldn’t keep from seeing them for myself. Although Psychic Medium Isabeau Esby did mention something about the slim possibility of getting possessed, but personally I think that I’m more likely to contract rabies from a first grader. They always say that you shouldn’t go ghost hunting alone, plus why would I lurk in back alleys and graveyards by myself anyways? So I assembled a ghost hunting team: strong ghost believers, Seniors Paraj Patel, Manu Putcha, and Robert Sack. On the hunt we brought two sound recorders, a digital camera, and our own personal beliefs in the paranormal. Patel and Putcha are both strong believers in ghosts, while I was more in the middle, and Sack was very skeptical. The two locations that we went to were the Dover Mills and the Point of Graves.

After reading the haunted description of the Dover Mills they made it sound like the mills were barely used. However, on this Saturday night they were quite alive. While it was eerie walking around the building there was nothing out of the ordinary. Later, listening to the recording we could hear a strange breath after we said something. The breath didn’t seem to come from any of us, but it isn’t significant enough to be noteworthy. If anyone wants to go here looking for the paranormal, I strongly suggest they go really late at night after everything is shut down.

The Point of Graves in Portsmouth would have been creepy hadn’t it been for its proximity to a bunch of houses and Prescott Park. Nonetheless I could feel chills go down my back when we read some of the gravestones. The gravestone of Daniel Huntress Jr. being the strangest. “Stop my friends, the reason why, as you are so once was I. As I am now so you must be, and now prepare to follow me.” Beside me losing my cell phone, we didn’t experience anything out of the ordinary while we were there. I snapped some pictures of the grave yard though and when I got home and reviewed the photos I realized that there was a strange fog on the right edge of the photo. Often a strange fog like the one I shot which wasn’t visible to the naked eye is sometimes associated with apparitions. However, as Putcha brought up, “It just could have been your breath.” The temperature was just below freezing that night, but that may not be cold enough to make my breath appear that thick. Even if it was my breath, we had fun and it was definitely worth it-except for my cell phone.



Taken at the Point of Graves Burial Ground, a strange fog can be seen on the right side of the photo covering the gravestone.

Some places in the area that have been reported as having paranormal activity...

The Dover Mills- Dover, NH

During the industrial revolution much of New Hampshire’s economy was fueled by the textiles industry. In any large New Hampshire town along a river textile mills can be found. Dover, New Hampshire is no exception. However, the mills of Dover have a sad past. On a cold winters night in 1907 Cocheco Mill No. 1 partially burned down killing several workers. Now it is thought that the mills are haunted by their souls.

It is said that when you are just standing outside of the mill after dark, when everyone is gone and all the offices are closed, you can see strange lights coming from higher-level rooms. You also hear very strange noises which can be identified as machines turning on and off. At first they are quieter but when listening for about five minutes, one very loud machine turns on. When entering the building in either of the two towers, if you are to sit on the stairs alone, you can hear faint noises which are undetermined. However, there is no one else in the tower to create such noises. Psychic medium Espy said that she’s also had her experiences with the mills. According to Espy she was in the mill building during the day when she heard a man talking in the kitchen at the end of the hallway. When she went in there was no man just her friend who said that she wasn’t talking to anybody and that there was no one else there.

Smith Hall, UNH- Durham, NH

The multi-cultural dorm that has drawn a lot of attention over the university wanting to switch it from a dorm to the Office of Admissions, may also be haunted. Apparently a mysterious female ghost wanders the halls and visits residents in the middle of the night.

The Point of Graves Burial Ground- Portsmouth, NH

Psychic medium Esby, for the most part, doesn’t believe that graveyards are haunted. Her argument is that a spirit really wouldn’t want to spend its time in a graveyard. However, she says that the Point of Graves Burial Ground is an exception. This small graveyard that holds the remains of some of Portsmouth’s most prominent historical figures has had numerous reports of paranormal activity. Visitors hear footsteps behind them when no one is there and a vault on the most western side has an odd glow when looked at on film. Esby says that there are three “hot spots” in the graveyard including a female apparition who likes to push people.

The Three Chimneys Inn- Durham, NH

Nestled on a hill above the Oyster River, the Three Chimneys Inn has mastered the art of bed and breakfast for over a decade. However, this house upon the hill was around long before it became an inn and some of its residents might still be there. Built in 1649 by Valentine Hill it is one of the oldest homes in New Hampshire and one of the only homes to survive the deadly Durham Indian raids. People at the inn have had countless paranormal experiences and as a response to this the Innkeeper, Karen Meyer, had two local ghost investigative companies come to see what was going on. Both companies determined that the inn was indeed haunted. Following this, the inn even made a handout for guests and dedicated a page on their website to explain their “restless spirits.”

The most talked about spirit is a young woman named Hannah. “Because she’s a younger spirit she’s more playful,” explained Laurie Foster who works the front desk at the inn. Records show that Hannah was Valentine Hill’s daughter and was married in 1659 at approximately the age of 20. However, there is no further mention of her. It is believed that Hannah drowned in the Oyster River. In turn, her “restless spirit” haunts the inn. According to Foster, Hannah enjoys playing with electronics, locking and unlocking doors, playing hide and seek with items, and hates change. One time someone in the inn was using the printer, but it wouldn’t stop printing even after it was unplugged. It did this with no source of power until all the paper in tray was gone. Innkeeper Meyer’s office door which can only be accessed with her one key, has been found unlocked even though she locked it. Other various doors throughout the inn are prone to being locked and unlocked without human involvement.

On two known occasions in the tavern, objects (a candle and a glass) have risen into the air and dropped with several witnesses watching. In the case of the glass, it fell hitting the edge of the table and smashing on the floor. Guests occasionally hear the sounds of furniture being moved in the floor above their room even though there was no one staying above them. One night an employee who was sleeping heard a person walking in the parlor and when she went down every drawer in the front desk was pulled out exactly one inch. The most striking incident was when the former chef had closed up for the night and was walking up the stairs and he spotted movement behind him. When he turned back he saw a woman staring up at him that he described as Hannah.

Seacoast Repertory Theater- Portsmouth, NH

Music Hall employee Jhana Morris suggested that if I’m looking for a good haunted location that I should check out the other theater in Portsmouth: the Seacoast Repertory Theater. Craig Faulkner, an employee at the theater, said in a SeacoastOnline.com interview, that he’s heard stories of strange figures, odd noises with no source, and things being moved without someone moving them. “And there’s interesting rewiring type of things [that occur], like microphones that get put in different connections,” said Faulkner. Also, people report seeing figures sitting in the seats at the top of the stairs near the entrance, “People have said they see people sitting there when no one is there,” explained Faulkner who was reluctant to elaborate when he revealed that he had experiences himself.

Oyster River High School Junior, Bridget Regan who worked at the Seacoast Repertory Theater is slightly more skeptical. “I don’t think that it’s haunted, but it is creepy being

there alone.” She said that sometimes stage lights that had been properly secured on the ceiling will suddenly fall and sometimes the power randomly goes out. “I think it’s just laziness on the technicians part, but every time the power goes out they blame it on the ghost.”

The Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse/ Fort Constitution- Newcastle, NH

The sight of a “Ghost Hunters” episode, the Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse and Fort Constitution have had their fair share of phenomenon. The fort and lighthouse were even opened up to the public for a night of hunting for ghosts where a photo of a strange fog was taken in Fort Constitution, a possible indicator of an apparition. When “Ghost Hunters” came for the night they did not attain enough solid evidence to determine whether or not the area was haunted. It does not diminish the other evidence that’s been collected on the site.

Along with both a fort and a lighthouse, there is a Coast Guard Base which is open 24/7. People maintaining the security cameras on the base have reported seeing a woman in white on the camera. Also, people report hearing voices, seeing the apparition of the lighthouse keeper Joshua Card standing on the walkway, and seeing the apparition of a woman in the upstairs of the keeper’s house. While “Ghost Hunters” didn’t attain enough evidence to determine whether or not the site was haunted, they did experience their share of phenomenon. For example, they heard a female’s voice in the keeper’s quarters, heard footsteps in the lighthouse, and they heard replicated taps.



Several mill workers were killed in the 1907 fire that partially burnt down Cocheco Mill No.1 in Dover, New Hampshire. Some believe that the mill is now haunted by their spirits. Photo curtosy of the Dover Public Library.

Fort Constitution has its fair share of tragic history. In 1809 an explosion of gunpowder resulted in the deaths of three officers, three young boys, and one citizen. Additionally because of its proximity to the mouth of the Piscataqua, any victims of shipwrecks would have been brought to the fort. Finally, there are numerous cases of lighthouse keepers haunting their former homes.

Isles of Shoals- Portsmouth, NH

The Isles of Shoals, a collection of islands off of the coast of New Hampshire, are filled with stories of ghosts and hauntings. The Isles of Shoals has also had its share of shipwrecks and it’s been said that these “phantom ships” can be spotted from the mainland in Rye and Portsmouth. One of the ghost ships can be seen off of Smuttynose during the mid-January anniversary of the shipwreck.

Smuttynose also was the location of the famous murder of two Norwegian girls. The movie and book, “The Weight of Water,” was based off of this 1873 murder. A few years after the murder the house in which it took place was burned to the ground. Some people claim that the suspected murderer Louis Wagner’s “remorseful ghost” haunts the site. The two murdered Norwegian girls ended up being buried at South Cemetery in Portsmouth.

Star Island was the location of an episode of “Ghost Hunters.” Much of the buildings are claimed to be haunted, but “Ghost Hunters” determined that they didn’t have enough evidence to prove that they were haunted. The location that has had the most reports of the paranormal on the island is the Oceanic Hotel where ghosts are said to “manifest around the third and fourth floors of the hotel, in the attic people hear the sounds of furniture being moved even though the fourth floor attic has no floor, doors open and close on their own, and there’s a ghost “haunting” the men’s restroom on the first floor.

The Isles of Shoales most famous visitor is undoubtedly the notorious pirate Blackbeard. Some say that Blackbeard may have never left. According to historian Robert Cahill in his book, New England’s Pirates and Lost Treasures, Blackbeard’s treasure is buried on Lunging Island and some speculate that his ghost is protecting it. Of over 15 wives Blackbeard had, two of them may be haunting the Isles of Shoals. One on Lunging Island that appears as a “milky figure, but more often heard whispering, ‘He will return.’” The other on White Island is “seen in a white dress.” Betty Moody who hid in a cave on White Island with her children to avoid an Indian attack. Moody ended up killing her children in the cave to prevent them from making any noise that would give her away. It is said that just before a storm the cries of Moody can be heard.



The final resting place of many of Portsmouth important historic figures their spirits may still wander the Point of Graves Burial Ground.

Helicopter Parents: Are your parents hovering over your life?



Bridget Regan
Features Writer

With the pressure of grades and college and life after college, times are becoming more and more hectic. With all these things going on, how much do you do and how much are you parents doing for you? In the chaotic times that youth has today, parents are becoming more and more involved, too involved in some people’s opinions. These parents are often known as “helicopter parents” due to their constant hovering.

Scott Chesney, director of residential life at The University of New Hampshire, has dealt with many different types of overly active parents, but not all of them are viewed negatively. Chesney explained how they are classified into different groups.

“There’s the ‘army generals’ who barks our orders,” said Chesney. “They won’t stop until they get the way they want.” Chesney also added two other types of parents known as the “consulting parent” who ask the department for their advice and are willing to collaborate, and the “I’m a lawyer” or, “I know a lawyer” type of parent that often try

to threaten the school to get their way. After 37 years of teaching, Lou Mroz has had his fair share of “helicopter parents.” A number of years ago, a student received a grade of an A and then an A-. The parents of this student then came in question why the child did not receive a higher grade and then verbally abused Mroz. An intern that was in the classroom next door, also heard the parents

and told Mroz that he could not believe what he just heard and how the parents reacted, but Mroz knew that wouldn’t be the end of those particular parents.

The next day an assistant principal told Mroz that the parents had called and said that if the grade was not changed within 24 hours, the parents would find all the dirt that they could on Mroz and print it in Fosters Daily Democrat. This case went all the way up to the superintendent, but ultimately the grade was never changed.

This is just one extreme example of the lengths that parents will go to be involved in their child’s lives and to get what they want and feel that their child needs help achieving whatever it is.

Some faculty members of ORHS understand where these parents are coming from though. Susan Miale quite often has to deal with parents calling the school and has dealt with a lot of over-bearing parents.

“Speaking as a former helicopter parent myself, I didn’t think I helped (my kids) by doing their work for them,” said Miale. “Now they can’t do as much as they should be able to.”

There are some students though who feel that their parents



A Times article notes many parent’s behaviors today

are extremely involved in their lives, but don’t really mind. Freshman, Luke Kenison, feels that his parents are very involved in his life, but he doesn’t really mind because he does a lot of things with them.

“In some senses, these parents can be a good thing,” said Chesney. “It shows character. If they work with the school though, that’s when we all can really work together and succeed.”

Junior, Mamoon Herz-Khan, on the other hand feels that his parents are very involved in his life, and he wishes that he had a little more freedom.

“They always want to know what I’m doing; if I leave the house, what I’m going to do.”

Sophomore, Katherine Meredith on the other hand

feels that her parents, “don’t really talk about to me about my life, and that’s fine by me.”

As for Principal, Laura Rogers, her view was there are fewer helicopter parents once kids hit high school because the kids won’t stand for it. A lot of times parents just would like special privileges for their son or daughter, which is the favoritism that Oyster River tries to avoid.

“The most important thing you can do for your child is let them advocate for themselves. Speaking as a parent, I believe that you have to teach your kids to advocate on their own so they can be successful in the real world.”

So, as you’re preparing to move on with the next step in your life, take a minute to think about your parents and how they’re helping you with your life; how involved are they, and are they helping or hurting? There’s nothing wrong with an involved parent, just make sure you know how to speak for yourself as well.

Images courtesy of Google Images



An overprotective mother tries to keep their child out of harms way

Overheards

“And he’s a fire fighter so you know he’s got the body.”
–Kyle Milner

“Do you know how roofing tiles feel on the naked body?”
–Marisa Kang

“That’s so Fergalicious.” –Mr. Brewer

“I love references to beanstalks.” –Alexandra Sosnowski

“Some kids come with both sets of equipment.” –Mrs. Kishbaugh

“My pants are so delicious.” –Bridget Reagan

“I’m always excited about wrenches.” –Chandler Hull

“I’m going to cut that squirrel up and put it in your mouth.” –Mr. Mroz



Spring is here!
Flowers photographed outside the library

“You’ll Shoot Your Eye Out!” The Different Styles of Parenting



Samantha Ackerman
Features Writer

Two hours past curfew you slip inside your door trying to open it as little as possible. Just as you close the door and let out a sigh of relief; your parents turn the light on. You walk past your parents and make your way to the kitchen table. As you slide into the seat you feel like you’re melting away; you know you’re in trouble. What bothers you most is that your friend who was with you only five minutes ago is probably on the couch watching TV. His parents don’t wait up for him, he doesn’t even have a curfew, and you on the other hand are dead. These are two different styles of parenting and they both have pros and cons. The question is, which type of parenting is better? And does your parenting style really affect your child?

“You can definitely be overprotective as a parent,” says Sara Usher, “and that can really take a toll on a child later down the road. Are my parents protective? I’d rather not say.” There are three different types of parenting styles; authoritarian, assertive, and permissive. The authoritarian parents are the parents that don’t give the child any input and what they say goes, no matter what. An assertive parent gives the child a chance to talk and get some input but the parent has the last say. And the permissive parent allows the child to figure out their own rules and boundaries. Every household has their own way of bringing up their child; each household has their own beliefs. There may not be a right and wrong way to raising a child. But what’s the best way?

There are pros and cons to every type of parenting, and you have to get to know your child to figure out what type of parenting is best suited for them. “If you’re too strict, one: your kids won’t learn to make a decision for themselves” explains Mary Kishbaugh, the child development teacher at Oyster River, “and two: they might rebel.” However if you’re too loose there are consequences as well. “Kids with too loose of parents may not know what boundaries exist,” explains Kishbaugh. “Sometimes that kid can end up making a big mistake.” Kishbaugh believes in the assertive type of parenting, you’re not overly strict but you don’t let your child make all their own decisions.

“Some parents tend to go... overboard when it comes to protecting their child,” says Stefanie Ackerman. “It’s understandable. You just have to be careful not to push the envelope.” Psychologists and researchers that are looking at this topic have come up with a term for these over-protective parents, “helicopter parents”. These are the parents that try to make the world a safe place for their little one and who can blame you? Why wouldn’t you want your child to be safe? The fact is that as you get older the less you have to protect your child, or it goes right back to what Kishbaugh said,

“Teenagers think they have it all figured out when they still have a lot of learning to do”
~ Sandy Duvall

“kids won’t be able to make a decision for themselves.”

I know my parents are always talking about “boundaries”, and how every kid needs them but doesn’t that change as you get older? If you’re a senior in high school you shouldn’t have the same boundaries that you had as a junior because you’re older and more mature. The other big thing for many seniors is facing college. College is a very stressful time for many families and it causes stress on their relationship with the parents and the child. “It will be one of the most difficult times in your relationship,” explains Kishbaugh. “Yes, you need more freedom but at the same time you still want to be protected by mom and dad. It’s scary; you’re always going up and down and changing your mind on where you want to be.” As hard

of a time as this is Kishbaugh recommends to all parents to just be “patient” and realize that this is a hard time for the kids as well.

“The toughest part about being a parent is that you never know if you’re doing the right thing,” says Stefanie Ackerman, the parent of four kids ages 17, 16, 13 and 9. Ackerman explains that you have to “roll with the punches.” You can’t always have set rules, they have

“Being a real family means communication, struggling and figuring it out together, and growing together, it’s not always easy!”
~ Barbara Milliken

to be flexible.

“My parents bend the rules sometimes,” says Sara Usher, “I personally think that as a senior having a curfew is dumb. We’re in

college next year, we can’t go from having a ton of freedom to being on a leash all of senior year. There needs to be some in between.”

I made a survey and asked parents of teens to fill it out. In the survey there were different scenarios like “if your child came home two hours past curfew, what would you do?” by answering these questions I could tell what type of parenting style they believed in. To make things more interesting however I asked the child to answer the same survey and answer it how they think their parents would respond and then I had them compare the surveys. Most of the children and parents seemed to answer all the questions almost exactly the same. I also found that most of the parents at this time in their child’s life were in between the assertive parenting style and the permissive parenting style.

Becca Sasso and her mother Kay Wooten filled out these surveys. They both answered everything almost exactly the same. Becca is now eighteen years old and a senior at Oyster River High School. Sasso doesn’t have a curfew and wouldn’t change anything about her moms parenting style. “My mom and I have a very trusting relationship,” explains Sasso, “and if she changed I might not feel like I could tell her everything.” A similar response seemed to come from most of the kids who do not have a curfew and therefore don’t feel that *helicopter parenting* style but rather a parenting style based off trust. “I also need to give them freedom to explore and to think for themselves,” explains Wooten, “If I have taught them well, when they think for themselves they will come up with the right answers.” Hannah Lonstein who’s also 18 and a senior at Oyster River High School has a curfew. “I don’t feel like my relationship with my parents would be any different,” explains Lonstein. “I’m sure for some kids and parents it would be, but I have a very close family. I don’t think the curfew is an issue of trust.”

Parenting is hard there’s no doubt about that. You do your best and try to fix everything you can about how your parents brought you up to make a better environment for your children. The relationship between parents and child is very special and as the child gets older more stress is put on the relationship. “With the teenagers it is difficult convincing them that we were teenagers once too and our advice might be *very good* because we have been there before...” explains Sandy Duvall, the mother of Danny Duvall (17), Tommy Duvall (16) and Audrey Duvall (10), “Teenagers think they have it all figured out when they still have a lot of learning to do.” The most important thing for a parent to do at this stage is to be patient, understand where the child is coming from with certain situations and realize that life for them isn’t as easy as it seems. “Being a real family means communication, struggling and figuring it out together, and growing together,” says Barbara Milliken, the mother of Amiee (22) and Tess (19). “It’s not always easy!”



A famous example of an over-protective parent seen in the movie A Christmas Story.
Courtesy of costumzee.com



An exaggeration of the authoritative parenting with the kids saluting to the parents.

The Three Styles of Parenting



An example of permissive parenting; the daughter walking away without punishment and the father trusting her decisions.



An example of assertive parenting; with the parents and kid at the table talking out their problems.

Oyster River’s Artists

Most of you have noticed that Oyster River has many students that are extremely talented arttictically. Just go into the art room and take a look if you don’t believe me. We have everything from incredible pottery to amazing portraits. One thing great about Oyster River is that we have students who really value their art work and teachers who spend a lot of time with their students. Here are some great examples of some of the best artwork at Oyster River.

~ Donovan Kelley



Artwork by Tony Limauro



Artwork by Jared Foley



Artwork by Timmy Short



Artwork by Loraine Hu



Artwork by Georgia Borner



Artwork by Alexe Taylor



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SATURDAY MAY 15, 2010

8:00AM Sharp Race Start

OYSTER RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

Pick up / Return Registration Forms at ORHS Front Desk
\$20 Student Entry Includes Race T-shirt & Lunch

**Race Followed by the Oyster River Festival
Free Concert & Exhibition 9am-5pm**

- ❖ Esoteric Generation with other great local bands
- ❖ ORHS Junior Class BBQ Fundraiser
- ❖ ORHS Student Exhibitors
- ❖ Chicken Wing Eating Contest!

More info at www.BobcatBolt.com & www.ORFest.org
Join us on Facebook and Follow us on Twitter @Bobcatbolt
Proceeds Benefit the ORTI Youth Center Project



What’s the story morning glory?



Bridget Regan
Features Writer

With spring sports rolling around, there’s also another big event commitment that this year over 40 people are involved with, the spring musical. Over the years the spring musical has been directed by middle school music teacher, David Ervin, and music directed by Marc LaForce. This year the director was switched to the theater arts teacher, Meredith Freeman-Caple. In place of LaForce, Oyster River Alumni, Kathy Fink, took over the process of the musical. Fink was invited by Caple to join the production crew for Bye Bye Birdie. “It is very exciting to be back at the school where I did my first full length musical,” said Fink. Fink participated in the pit of a couple of the school musicals during her time at OR. This is Caple’s 4th year teaching at OR. During this time she has also directed the fall show, the one act production, the murder mystery,

and has been the faculty advisor for the drama club. “I am ecstatic [to be directing this year],” said Caple. “It’s going really well! It’s a really fun musical and it’s wonderful to work with Kathy Fink.” Bye Bye Birdie is a rock musical set in the late 1950’s that is based around Elvis Presley, known as Conrad Birdie in the show, and his draft notice that he received from the army in 1958. In this musical, Albert Peterson, Birdie’s agent, with the help of his secretary Rose Alvarez, decide to have one last big hit before Birdie goes off to the army called, One Last Kiss. They then venture to Sweet Apple, Ohio where Birdie will give his last kiss to Kim MacAfee, a teenager of Sweet Apple who just recently started going steady.



Andrea Belaidi (Rosie) and Kyle Milner (Albert) get excited for the upcoming show

“It’s a really fun musical that’s also a cross between a rock and tradition musical,” added Caple. Caple also felt that this would be a great musical for OR because she could also include as many people as she wanted to in it. The performance dates of Bye Bye Birdie will be Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 6th, 7th, and 8th in the high school auditorium.

Check It Out! *Books You Should Read*

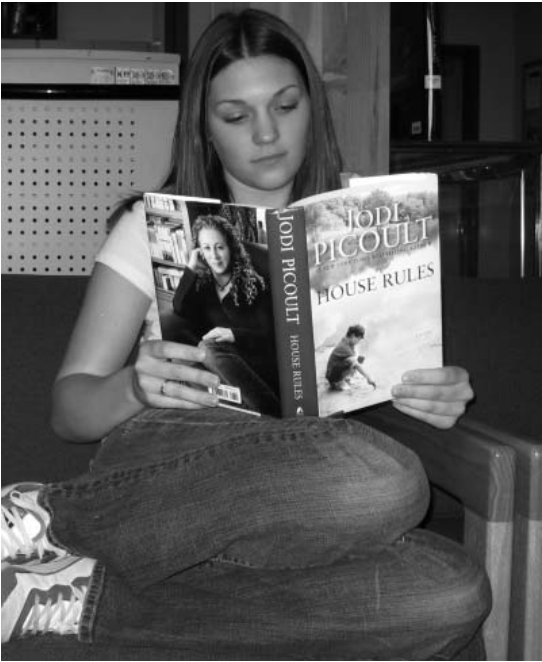
It’s a rainy day, your friends are all busy and there really isn’t anything to do. So instead of watching TV for endless hours what do you do? Read! Sometimes it’s hard to find a good book but once you find an author you love it becomes much easier. I’m going to help you out and tell you some of my favorites and maybe you’ll find that you like them too! I’ve also asked others about their favorite books! Maybe this will help you fill in time on that rainy day!

Sam’s Favorites:

My Sister’s Keeper by Jodi Picoult
Right off this book pulls you into the middle of a life changing family conflict. Why doesn’t Anna get the surgery to save her sisters life? How could Anna be selfish enough to say, “no” when she’s not the one going through cancer? Questions you’ll be asking yourself throughout the book. Picoult writes in a way that has you pulling in every direction. You become part of their lives and learn to love each character. A book you won’t soon forget and an ending that leaves you crying.

The Pact by Jodi Picoult
Could you ever love someone enough to help them end their life? Would you die with them? These questions are raised when Emily and Chris two high school students make a pact to die together. Their families have been friends before they born, having Chris and Emily together and in love was their dream. It just takes one call to turn their world upside down and have your closest friends quickly become your enemy. The Pact throws you into the lives of both families and makes you decide, “Did Chris kill Emily?”

The Last Song by Nicholas Sparks
Ronnie, 17 is forced to spend the summer with her dad that walked out on them 3 years earlier. She doesn’t expect to enjoy her summer and really doesn’t want to. However Ronnie ends up not wanting to leave and the end comes all too soon. She falls in love and learns to accept things that she never thought she would. With a sudden twist in the end she find herself becoming more of the person she wants to be, a person she has wished she always was.



Me reading my newest Jodi Picoult book House Rules

Since I tend to read a certain type of book I interviewed some students and teachers on their favorite books. Here are some answers:

- The Catcher in the Rye (J. D. Salinger)**- “It’s very relatable and interesting. This book also has cool characters.” – Melissa Halliwell
- The Lord of the Rings (J. R. R. Tolkien)**- “I read it when I was younger and I just have always liked those books. It brings back childhood memories.” – Jack Garnhart
- A Walk In the Woods (Bill Bryson)**- “It’s about him walking the Appalachian Trail and I think that would be a cool thing to do in my life time.” – Erik Frid
- Little Brother (Cory Doctorow)**- “I really like the story and it a lot of really cool details. Also the book has a lot of random things I learn from it.” – Katie Fiegenbaum

Tenth Circle (Jodi Picoult)- “All her books just tie everything up at the end, she never leaves things hanging. I also love how everything takes place in New Hampshire so I know where everything is.” – Rachel Chiodo

Maniac Magee (Jerry Spinelli)- “It’s the only book I’ve read in my whole life.” – Kyle Frye

A Game of Thrones (George R. R. Martin)- “It’s probably the best science fiction fantasy I’ve read.”- Mr. Garman

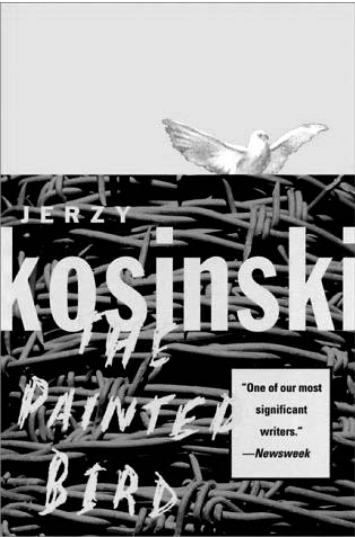
The Painted Bird (Jerzy Kosinski)- “I think it’s a unique story with some good action.”- Mr. Zottoli

Telling the Truth: The Gospel as Tragedy, Comedy and Fairytale (Frederick Buechner)- “He has a great view on the Christian story.” – Mr. Bromley

Polar Shift (Clive Cussler)- “I like the action and adventure books. I love going outside in the sun and reading a book; it’s my get away.”- Mrs. Healy

Catching Fire (Suzanne Collins), Hunger Games (Suzanne Collins) and Poisonwood Bible (Barbara Kingsolver)- “They are all just awesome, they had great characters and are a fast read.” – Mrs. Kucera

I hope this article has given you some ideas of what books to read! Our library has a variety of different books available for you! Go check it out!



Taken from google images



Hannah Lonstein
Features Writer

Get Ready For Prom!

When?- May 14th
Where?- The Ashworth by the Sea-Hampton

Prom is coming! Are you ready? If not, lucky for you, we are here to help you get started. This should be a fun process that you can share with family and friends.

By now, you should have definitely gone shopping for your dream dress. If you haven't, go! You need time for alterations and other preparations like getting accessories to match. You also have to give your date time to match as well. Below are lists of places to help make prom shopping easier for you! ☺

Dresses:
Le Club Boutique-Portsmouth, NH
The Ultimate-Peabody, MA
Bill and Bob's-Fox Run Mall-Portsmouth, NH
Madeleine's Daughter-Portsmouth, NH
Modern Bride and Formal Shop-Bedford, NH
Department Stores-Macy's, JC Penny, Nordstrom

Shoes:
Choozy Shoes-Portsmouth, NH
Department Stores-Macy's, JC Penny
Payless Shoes-Fox Run Mall, Portsmouth, NH
The Ultimate-Peabody, MA
Charlotte Russe-Fox Run Mall-Portsmouth, NH
Jewelry:
Department Stores-Fox Run Mall-Portsmouth, NH



Steffen Haake and Ellyn Legard showing off their styles from Le Club Boutique and Men's Wearhouse.



Molly Moynihan, Kristen Silverman and Gabby Chesney in their dresses from Le Club Boutique, ready to hit the runway!

Bill and Bob's-Fox Run Mall-Portsmouth, NH
Claire's-Fox Run Mall-Portsmouth, NH
Le Club Boutique-Portsmouth, NH
Charlotte Russe-Fox Run Mall-Portsmouth, NH

Hair:
Hair Excitement-Durham, NH
My Liege Salon and Metrospa-Dover, NH
A-Nu-Du-Durham, NH
Bellaviso-Dover, NH



Roy Hutton presenting his lovely partner, Ashley Ayer, with a rose.

Relay For Life Prom Fashion Show 2010



Samantha Ackerman
Features Writer

Every year Relay for Life teams pull together to form a prom fashion show to help raise money. Le Club Boutique, Men's Warehouse, Red Carpet Floral and Hair Excitement donate their time to create an amazing show. They give us amazing dresses and tuxes to wear, we're provided with flowers for both the men and women and Hair Excitement make the ladies look beautiful by doing their hair and make-up professionally. This year we decided to go behind scenes of the fashion show and see the show slowly unfold and come together.

Quotes:
"Getting our hair and make-up done together at Hair Excitement was so much fun and picking out dresses was a blast too. I think that this is a great way to raise money because it brings together a lot of the community to have fun for a really good cause." - Gabby Chesney
"I think it was fun and it's a unique way to raise money, our school and those around us don't have a lot like it." -Molly Moynihan
"All the people at Hair Excitement were great and really excited to be involved in helping raise money for the American Cancer Society." -Ellyn Legard
"It was a lot more fun than I thought it would be." -Roy Hutton

"I had an awesome time, I was really nervous at first and I thought it was going to be a total flop, but I was really surprised by the turnout." - Loren Couse
"It's such a great cause and it was an honor to be a part of it. I had so much fun getting my hair and makeup done, and the dresses were wonderful! At one point Mrs. Schaeffer said, "It's like solving three problems." I thought she meant math problems because Mr. Rowling aka *Hot Scott* is a math teacher. Later I found out she meant you had to think of three acts to do at the end of the stage, so that became a big joke." - Mrs. Engstrom



All of the spectacular female models who participated in the show! Great Job ladies!



Chandler Hull showing off his snazzy tuxedo from Men's Wearhouse along with Ashley Ayer and his partner Samantha Ackerman in their lovely gowns from Le Club Boutique.

Special thanks to Emily Sherry, Ivy Moody and Mrs. Shaeffer! You guys put on a great show!

All pictures provided by Facebook





Gabby Brodeur
Guest Writer

The Class of 2010 Kicks the Bucket!

For most of us seniors, we have a little over 2 months until we graduate. When I made this realization, I got kind of scared. Graduation will be one of the biggest things in our lives to date. I started thinking back on all the things I told myself I was going to do before I graduated, and realized I was running out of time. So I started making a list, a bucket list for Oyster River. See how many you can check off before the school year kicks the bucket on June 18th.



- 1. Skip out on last period on a random Friday.
- 2. Go to Rocky's Burgers in Newmarket and get some weird toppings.
- 3. Get a job.
- 4. Camp in the woods somewhere local, awkwardly.
- 5. Visit one of the "adult" stores in Newington.



- 6. Hang out in Mrs. Roger's office and annoy her.
- 7. Donate blood at an infamous blood drive.
- 8. Jump off the top of Wiswall (or the Trestle...but don't get caught).
- 9. Go to a school hockey game.
- 10. Go skiing.



- 11. Let go of the grudge you've had since 8th grade.



- 12. Ask out that random person you've always had a crush on.
- 13. Learn how to drive stick.
- 14. Don't sleep for 24 hours.
- 15. Sneak into an R rated movie (if you're not seventeen).
- 16. Go to the Friendly Toast after midnight.



- 17. Go to prom with an awkward date.
- 18. Get your license.
- 19. Go skinny dipping with your friends.
- 20. Hide in a movie theatre after the movie.
- 21. Go to Hilltop Fun Center and pay too much to play laser tag.
- 22. Learn how to ice skate, or surf, or something similar.
- 23. Try sushi (vegetable is fine too).



FACULTY'S PERSPECTIVE

Mrs. Richardson

What do you think every student should do before they graduate high school?
Volunteer somewhere!
What did you think was important to do in high school, but really wasn't?
Have fun.
If you could go back what would you do instead?
I would have been more involved in sports and clubs and such.

Mrs. Miale

What do you think every student should do before they graduate high school?
Bring me coffee...no but really, take a UNH class.
What did you think was important to do in high school, but really wasn't?
Have fun and worry less about my social life.
If you could go back what would you do instead?
I would study harder.

Mrs. Rogers

What do you think every student should do before they graduate high school?
Sit down with a teacher you trust and have an honest conversation about your strengths and weaknesses.
What did you think was important to do in high school, but really wasn't?
What people who weren't my friends thought of me.
If you could go back what would you do instead?
I would work harder in school, I was a good student but I wish I had tried harder in French so I could speak it now.

Mrs. Kucera

What do you think every student should do before they graduate high school?
Eat ice cream from Golicks (and Kscoop!), and go sledding at Wagon Hill. Drive around aimlessly during the summer. Go swimming at Wiswall.
What did you think was important to do in high school, but really wasn't?
Freaking out about college, it all just kind of happens and as long as you don't screw up too much with your grades you're all set. And who your friends are.
If you could go back what would you do instead?
Have more fun and worry less about what people thought. I would say what I thought, instead of being quiet.

Mrs. Healy

What do you think every student should do before they graduate high school?
Take an art class. And do some community service. Oh, and sit with someone at lunch that you've never talked to.
What did you think was important to do in high school, but really wasn't?
I didn't care what people thought, so nothing!
If you could go back what would you do instead?
I wish I had paid a little more attention to my school work. And I quit sports to work, and I wish I had done both.



Hannah Allen
Op-Ed Writer

Racing to Save Lives: A Letter From the Editor

I'm swimming ¼ miles in the ocean, biking 10 miles and then running 3.5 miles all in the same day! Why am I putting myself through this you ask? I am doing it for all of those who never got the chance. In honor of all the people I have lost in my life, I have decided to take part in the Hyannis Sprint Triathlon coming up this June.

I am training for the triathlon through the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's (LLS) Team in Training. TNT exists to find a cure for leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma and to improve the quality of life of patients and their families. Training with me is my oldest sister Elizabeth and our dad Paul; together we have a goal of raising \$10,000. With school, work, training and fundraising, the challenge is a lofty one, but not unlike the challenge 747,000 Americans are facing every day. Every ten minutes a life is claimed by blood cancer, and I am taking on this challenge on behalf of those who have lost their battles.

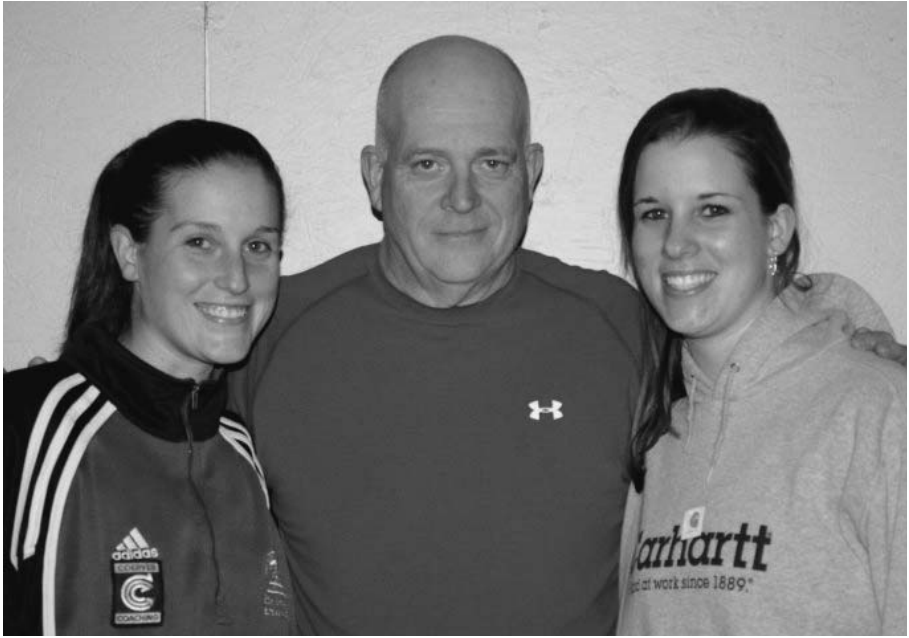
While I put my body through the test of this triathlon, I will be remembering the people who I have lost to disease and accidents. I will think of Todd Heuchling who has inspired me to push myself in athletics, my Aunt Cathy who always was smiling and making everyone around her laugh, Oliver Slezak who always accepted people the way they were. I'll remember my Uncle Eric who lived by the motto "Life is About Participation", my Grandpa (Tampa) who always encouraged me to do my best in school. Cousin Jon will be with me telling me that I can make it to the finish line and my Aunt Gerry who taught me that no matter what, we can always prove people wrong.

TNT has raised \$1 billion to support blood cancer research and patient services. Seventy five percent of every dollar spent through the Society goes to research, patient services and education. My family has lost many loved ones these past few years, and has received much support from our community. These next few months we want to raise money to give back and help other families who are in need of support.

Visit the Team Allen site at: <http://pages.teamintraining.org/ma/HyannisT10/TeamAllen> where you can check on our progress, read our story and visit our individual sites. All donations are tax deductible and no donation is too small. If you prefer writing a check they can be made out to The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and given to me. If you have any questions feel free to ask by e-mailing me at Hannahleigh223@yahoo.com.

Whether you offer financial or moral support through this training, I want to thank you in advance for your support in this exciting time of my life!

Sincerely,
Hannah Allen



By Josh Park
Sports Writer

The Ethics of Sports: Should Character Matter?

Tiger Woods, Michael Jackson, and now Scotty Lago have been victims of society. In our world today our actors, singers and athletes have been held to outrageous expectations. We fail to realize that they are also human and not perfect icons. Personally I don't believe any of them have to necessarily be a role model. Freshman Cameron Flynn agrees, "It doesn't matter, their life is their personal issue." An athletes' job is to do well in their sport and their DUI's shouldn't be glamorized by our media.

Some people may be thinking, "Wow I really feel bad for them, they must feel so victimized making so much money and basking in fame." The amount of money someone makes or their fame doesn't mean their "personal" lives should be blown up by the media. Senior Zach Wasserman says, "We follow them because of their successfulness. The media takes advantage of their high status and blows it up." There are plenty of wealthy and successful people that do their job and go back to their normal lives. The idea of a celebrity has become pretty absurd. Senior Brendan Kotlus doesn't agree with society's idolization of famous people, "In my opinion I don't care about any celebrity more than I do anybody else. It's their fault that they let materialism takeover their life. Honestly no one should care." Whether they are a singer or an athlete, those things are their jobs.

Tiger Woods is a golf player. Because he has kind of grown up with the world and media we put high expectations on him to be some kind of incredible role model. Why do we care about his personal life? Plenty of people in this world have gone around sleeping with different women and we don't know about it. Senior Arturo Jaras Watts says, "I don't think his personal mistakes should be in the public eye. His sexual habits are his business but Tiger was really irresponsible with his image." Woods is a golf player and we seemed to care a lot. Does his character affect his golf playing?

Scotty Lago is a snowboarder. Before he won an Olympic medal there were several pictures of him online partying and stuff like that. Right after he

wins a medal there is a picture of him released that shows him posing with the medal and some girls in a provocative way. Suddenly there is quite an outrage. As soon as he hits the media spotlight his expectations are heightened. Jaras Watts says, "After getting an Olympic medal it's more of a world stage and you have to be careful of where you get photographed."

If you go online and google a celebrities name there is information on what they are doing this very day. It's ridiculous how people heavily follow other people. Why can't we

allow them to do their job and then move on? Uli Luxem, a sophomore, has another theory, "People want to make money. It's unrealistic for someone to be perfect and the media wants to make money of their faults."

I can also understand all sorts of gossip happen on a smaller scale. People are always talking about stuff and I've seen things blown out of proportion. Nobody cares about what Tiger does on a regular basis and we only look at the extremes. We judge his character on the extremes that we see on television. The majority of people judge him on everything that we see on television. Just because he seemed like a good and reasonable guy during his press conferences. Senior Michelle Hobbs says, "He's so successful, he has a family and kids and just excelled in his field."

I wrote an article earlier this year on what athletes should and shouldn't do. This article touched upon more of the rules and not doing what is already illegal. The difference here is the ethical standpoint and what is morally right for celebrities to do. Who are we to spotlight someone's moral actions just because they are famous. Even when they are being unlawful who are we to blow it up and tell the whole world about it. Senior Michelle Mason said, "They are choosing that life and they have to recognize the loss of privacy that comes with it." I agree with that and I agree that it is inevitable that they will be followed constantly due to their "idol" status.

In many cases these people are not doing the right thing. Tiger Woods and Scotty Lago weren't doing morally right things. However, we have to look at ourselves before we judge others so extremely. What they are doing is not necessarily right but feeding the media the ammunition due to your obsession with the topic is not right either. People wonder why the media is stalking Tiger's mom and think of it as crazy but we are reading it and watching it. As long as they are making their money off such stupid news they are fine with it.



Pictures courtesy of lancerlord.blogspot.com





Timmy Short
Op-Ed Writer

The Wacky, Wild, Wonderful Adventures of Lou Mroz

Lou Mroz has seen it all. He’s like Forrest Gump, but with better hair and a higher IQ. He has road tripped to Alaska, stormed stadium fields, frolicked at Woodstock, brawled in Mexico and loved only one woman. Oh yeah, and he has a New York Accent. He might as well be a superhero.

In 1964, the famous Shea Stadium was completed and Little Lou turned 14 years old. “Shea Stadium was on one end of Flushing, I lived on the other end,” he remembers. “I remember going there when they were building it.” What he means was sneaking in when they were building it. One of these times, Mroz and a friend of his happened upon one of the New York Jets quarterbacks at the time, Mike Tolliver, and proceeded to—what else—strike up a game of catch with the football player on the brand new field.

As if one Shea Stadium story wasn’t enough, in 1968 Mroz saw all 7 home games the New York Jets played. “We would climb over the fence to get in and we sat at the 50-yard line, blue mezzanine every time.” In December of that year the Jets faced Oakland for a chance to play in the Super Bowl. When New York won Mroz stormed the field in celebration along with thousands of others. He even carried the Jets coach on his shoulders. At least until he spotted the 50-yard line marker and decided he wanted it in his room. Mroz picked it up and bolted, outrunning a security guard in the process. The souvenir still resides in his basement and he often brings it in to school to show his classes.

Then, in 1969, the New York Mets were playing the St. Louis Cardinals in an important divisional match-up. “I told all my friends, I said; ‘Hey, if the Mets win, watch me. I’m going to be one of the first individuals on the field,’” Mroz recalls. They won of course, and he stayed true to his promise. He and a couple others were the very first to reach the pitcher’s mound and they celebrated the victory in the in the midst of the professional athletes and the thousands of other fans who followed their lead. To this day, Mroz often catches glimpses of himself in video clips or pictures of New York Met’s highlights.

Growing up in New York City offered Lou experiences outside of sports as well. “When I was in high school I used to go to Greenwich Village and we would catch a lot of shows,” he remembers. “One of the real happening places in the Village was the Electric Circus and I remember seeing ‘Sly and the Family Stone’ there before it played at Woodstock.” The other venue that Mroz and his friends would often visit was the famous Fillmore East. “I remember going to a lot of shows there,” says Mroz. “And if you can imagine, shows back then cost 3, 4, 5 dollars. Ridiculous if you think about it.” The list of artists he saw perform at the Fillmore East includes Janis Joplin, the Grateful Dead, and Jethro Tull. There were certainly other shows Mroz attended, but some of them he has forgotten. “I don’t have all of the [ticket] stubs.”

1970 was the year that Mroz really caught the traveling bug. “In 1967 I started hitching for the first time,” he remembers. “I just thought it was really cool, with a friend, to put your thumb up on the road and someone would pick you up and you could go from place A to place B.” In 1970 Mroz took his first major trip when he hitched from New York City all the way to Key West, Florida. “I thought that was a cool experience,” he says. “I thought that was great, man. I was 16 years old. It freaked my parents out.”



Mroz’s Draft Cards from the Vietnam War. The “1-A” printed on the card in the top left of the picture means that had he not enrolled in college, he would have been called up to join the army.

He’s like Forrest Gump, but with better hair and a higher IQ.



Mroz after a horseback ride in Arizona, where he lived and taught for two years after marrying his wife.

The following summer was the first time that Mroz went cross-country. “That was an unbelievably exciting experience,” he recalls. “[I was] in my Volkswagen Bug with my two friends; seeing the Mississippi for the first time, seeing the Rocky Mountains, seeing the Pacific. Just being at all these places I’d never been before.”

Then in October, during a week off from Queens College, where Mroz was attending, he ventured to Florida for the third time that year. “Two friends and I said; ‘Wow man, this would be a real great time just to go to Florida.’ They drove to south and crashed at the University of Miami. “It was really easy to get into the dorms in those days,” Mroz recalls. “We would sleep in the dorms. We would sneak into the dining hall and get free food.” Then they came across a sign advertising a flight to the Bahamas, roundtrip for \$30. With all the remaining money they had left, Mroz and his friends took off to the islands where they just “hung out” and crashed at a church at night.

“When we returned to Florida we didn’t have any money,” Mroz remembers. “I didn’t want to call my parents.” Fortunately, they had met a guy in the Bahamas who had a credit card. He agreed to pay for the gas if they would give him a ride north. However, there was still the issue of food as they couldn’t afford any meals. “So what we did,” Mroz says, “Was we snuck into the University of Miami again, ate a couple of meals there and literally walked out with about 50 pieces of chicken. That’s what we ate the entire way back.”

Rewind to August of 1969. Mroz had quit his position as a counselor at a summer camp in upstate New York to be with his girlfriend only to found out that her parents didn't want them to be together. Instead he landed a job driving a Good Humor truck. "A lot of my friends were going up to Woodstock and I said, 'Hey man, I'm too depressed I don't want to go.'" But after hearing all about the historic music festival on the news Friday night, he had a change of heart. "I woke up Saturday morning," he recalls. "And then I called a friend of mine, Larry K, and I basically said; 'Hey Larry, what are you doing for the next 24 hours? Let's hitch up to Woodstock.'"

The New York thruway was closed but fortunately, Mroz knew the back roads up to the festival, so they were able to avoid the traffic jams. "Somehow we made it to the concert in time," he remembers. "It was pretty amazing being one of us many as 500,000 people to hear some of the greatest music at that time. It's one of those things that as time goes on; you realize it's even more amazing, because you think of all these other concerts that tried to duplicate Woodstock. Woodstock was just unique."

In 1971, Mroz and his friends planned a trip to Mexico. He drove with two friends all the way from New York City to Acapulco where they rented a villa for \$30 dollars a month. "We were about 3 or 4 blocks from the ocean," he says. "And taking nothing away from Hampton beach, man, Acapulco is just gorgeous. We had the time of our lives."

But the trip was entirely perfect. "When I was in Mexico I was going out with a blond secretary from Chicago," Mroz says. "Some Mexicans called me out on the beach. They wanted to fight me because one

of them wanted to go out with her.” Mroz refused to fight over something so ridiculous but the gang would not back off. The next day he went back to the beach, and swam about 100 yards out into the ocean. Back on the shore, one of the Mexicans stole his clothes and his towel. “I basically said; ‘that’s the last straw,’” Mroz remembers. “I swam in, ran after him. He threw a punch at me. I hit him and knocked him down. Next thing I knew [the gang] literally came from everywhere. I must have been jumped by about 15 guys.” Although he knew he didn’t stand a chance, Mroz refused to go down without a fight. He got one of the Mexicans in a hammerlock and battled until he was finally knocked unconscious. “I remember waking up and opening my eyes and there were people around me,” Mroz recalls. “And I said to myself; ‘Holy Dash.’” After reporting the incident, the police station and the American consulate said the same thing—get out of Acapulco or they will kill you.

With all these incredible adventures and wild stories, it seems like it would be nearly impossible for Lou Mroz to pick out the most significant event. So what has been the most important moment of his life?

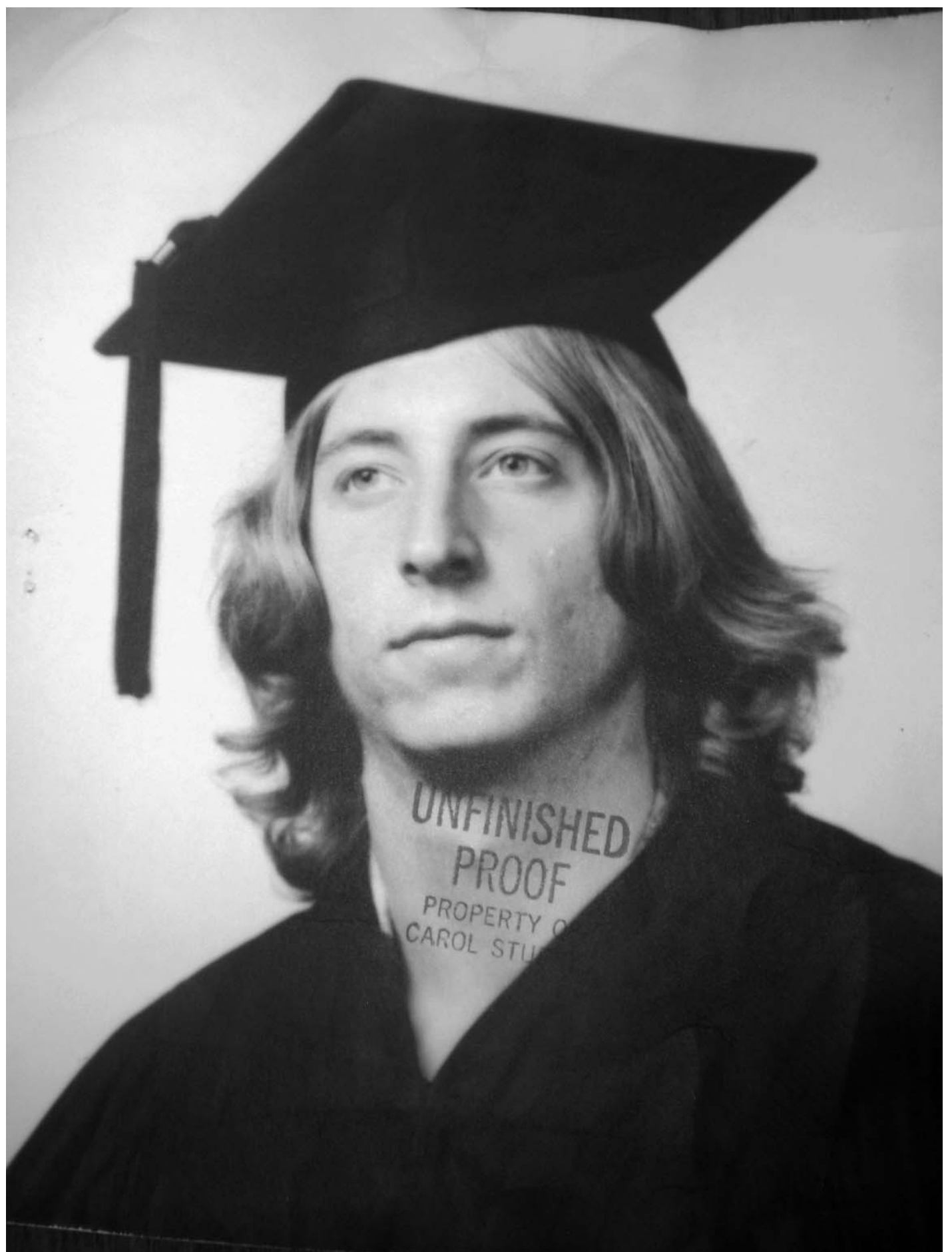
“Boy, I would say probably the most important thing is meeting a woman by the name of Fran back in May of 1971,” he says. “I was the manager of a rock’n’roll band back then. They said, ‘Hey, we’re having a band practice and there are some girls that are going to be there. That’s all I had to hear in those days, man.’”

“There was one girl that caught my eye,” Mroz remembers. After speaking to her for a while, he invited her to go to Angelo’s with him to get something to eat. She said yes. “As we were getting into my Volkswagen Bug she said; ‘I like Bugs,’ I looked at her and I said; “I like blondes.” At Angelo’s they both ate Veal Cutlet Parmesan Heroes and Mroz decided that if he kept on going out with her ‘he had it made in the shade.’ That night Lou and Fran pulled an all-nighter. They were together for the next four days. Not too long after, they were married and began a new kind of adventure by eachother’s side.

Mroz has had enough adventures to satisfy the average man. But he is not an average man. He continues to live each day with the same energy, the same enthusiasm, and at times the same downright kookiness that have made him perhaps the most interesting teacher and person that Oyster River High School has ever had the pleasure of calling their own.

And luckily, he plans on teaching until, well, forever. If that's not superhero material then I'll be damned. And the bottom line is: "That's dynamite."

On the right are the assorted ticket stubs that Mroz collected over the years from various shows he's been to. He keeps them all in his classroom.



Lou Mroz aftergraduating from Queens College in New York.



Hannah Allen
Op-Ed Writer

Facebook 101

Dear Facebook Users,
Please take a few minutes to read what your fellow classmates and I have to say about the way you use facebook. Hopefully this will help inform you on what you should and should not do on facebook. There is a fine line between cute and sleazy, funny and obnoxious, necessary and unnecessary.

Facebook is a networking website that was created for college students to keep in touch with their friends. It has expanded to high school students and even grandparents who want to find old friends and catch up. People can post information about their interests, love life and political views on their own personalized page, along with all pictures they want. Unfortunately, some people don't understand what they should keep to themselves.

Couples: I know you guys are dating; I don't need to see pictures of you making out on Facebook. One cute picture of you guys kissing at the park is fine, but I would prefer to not see 37 pictures of you swallowing each other's faces. Not only is it awkward, but they usually come out horribly, so why do you find the need to take a million of them and tag yourself in them? Quite frankly, it's completely unnecessary and gross.

Youngsters: I am sick of being friend requested by 10 year olds that I don't even know. It's bad enough being friend requested by someone in the high school who I barely recognize, but seriously, no I am not going to accept you as a friend. Senior Scott Leslie believes people shouldn't get a facebook until they get into high school, "There are too many sketches/pedophiles out there that would sketch on little kids," he said.

Freshmen Amelia Svanholm agrees that high school is an appropriate age for people to get a facebook account, "I think high schoolers get annoyed with people in middle school because kids are generally more immature. Facebook is more a website to talk to your friends and high schoolers aren't really interested in hearing about middle schoolers," she said. If your profile is filled with obnoxious girls writing "OMG LOL ILY!" you are too young and childish to have a facebook.

Annoying Girls: All you girls who like to post a million pictures pictures of yourself looking like you're 21, it's annoying (especially when they are just ones you take of yourself). I like having cute pictures of myself too, but I know that nobody wants to see 18 pictures of me in a slightly different pose. So how about try to tone it down to just one or two? "They clearly need to make better use of their time. They need to do something more productive or fun," said Senior Elise Contas.

Enough with the pictures of you posing in the mirror. There is no need to take a hundred pictures of yourself in the bathroom mirror, I don't care how skinny you are when you turn to the side and suck in. Although Leslie doesn't have a huge problem with girls posting seductive pictures of themselves on facebook, he does say, "A lot of people creep on other peoples' facebook, so I guess there part of the problem if they want to put those pictures up of themselves."

People Who Are Obsessed With Updating Statuses: Do you realize how stupid it is to update your status every two minutes and 27 seconds? Personally I don't give a crap that you are walking upstairs to go brush your teeth, it means absolutely nothing to anyone except yourself. And must you post statuses like, "I need a blunt"? How stupid are you? Do you understand that employers and colleges can view your "private" profile?

It's Complicated: Being "facebook official" is a pretty big deal in a relationship, right?? And when your feed says, "Emily Williams is no longer in a relationship" everyone gets frantic and asks a million questions. But what's with those people who change their relationship status to "It's Complicated"? Like, is there a discussion beforehand about the status change? Or do you just one day decide that after a fight you are gonna change it without warning? "It's weird to make that announcement publically. I don't care to hear about peoples relationship complications over the internet," said Contas.

So next time you are on facebook, take an extra second to decide if what you are doing is really necessary. Remember that not everyone cares about your stupid drama as much as you do.

Things You Shouldn't Do on Facebook

1. Post pictures that you wouldn't want employers to see. Yes, they look at the pictures you have posted holding alcoholic beverages when you aren't 21.
2. Don't have fights via facebook walls. It's so stupid. Obviously you are going to have a lot more guts online then you would have to someone's face, woman (or man) up and say what you want to their face.
3. Update your status every 10 minutes. Once or twice a day is totally fine, but more than that is too much. I'm not that interested in what you're doing, and it's irritating when the news feed is filled with all your updates.
4. Be in a "complicated" relationship with someone.
5. Have wall to wall conversations with someone for a 30 minute time period. Just use facebook chat. It's not that hard.
6. Don't invite people to stupid groups and events, especially people you never talk to. I get excited when I get an invitation to someone, and it is such a buzz kill when it's to a group called, "I bet I can get 1,000,000,000 people to join this group!!"
7. Post a million pictures of you making out with your boyfriend/girlfriend. It's just unnecessary.

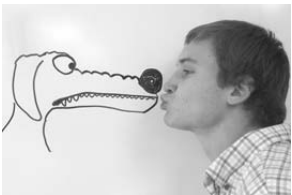
Sneak Peak to the 2010 Yearbook: Remember When...



Have you ordered your yearbook yet!!? If not, it's not too late! Go to www.ybpay.com and find Oyster River High School.

Can you guess who the kids in these pictures are? In the senior section of the yearbook you will see many more pictures like these funny ones!





Donovan Kelley
Op-Ed

The Over - Under:
From Reggie Bush to Warren Zevon

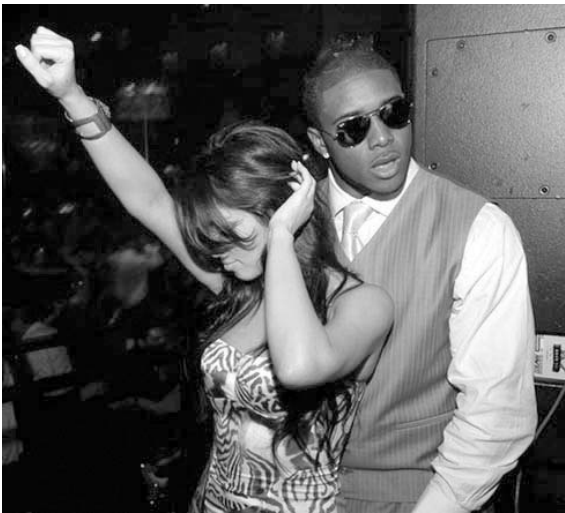
In our society today we have a big problem with overrating things that don’t deserve the credit they get, and not giving enough credit to the things probably deserve the most. People have stopped studying the qualities in everyday things and just go with what the crowd says now. If they say it on television, in a magazine or online it must be true right? For some reason there is this general concept that our media has superior intelligence than an average human being. You need to think for yourself folks; going with the flow isn’t always the right way to go. Just because someone tells you that a certain movie is incredible because of Oscar recognition, doesn’t mean it truly is incredible. If you don’t have your own thoughts and personal opinions, what do you have? Stop listening to our media so much and create your own thoughts, believe me it will be beneficial in the long run.

I am proposing to you a list of things in our society that are either overrated as a whole are underrated as a whole. I am going to be discussing topics in sports, music and movies. Let me clear one thing up though before I get started; just because it is overrated does not mean it is bad! Take a band for instance; you can have a perfectly good band that just gets too much credit. They can sound great and make good songs but when it gets to the point that people are making ridiculous claims about the band, saying they are the greatest of all time and they have great lyrics (without any actual backup) is when they become over-rated. So without further ado, I bring to you my overrated and underrated list.

OVERRATED

Sports

1. Reggie Bush – Bush is very obviously the most overrated sports player in all of professional sports now. He is a running back with average stats that gets paid almost \$9 million a year without the endorsements. I mean come on folks, isn’t this a bit too much? Yes he was good at USC, but what has he accomplished now? He did win a Super Bowl this year – as a backup. The bottom line is, our media has completely over estimated what Bush would do in the NFL, yet he is still the center of attention.



Reggie Bush Courtesy of Google

2. Dwight Howard – Don’t get me wrong, Howard is a good big man. But to call him the best big man in the league is a joke. The man cannot play offense. Yes he can dunk over someone, because he is very tall and jacked, but have you ever seen him make nice post moves? When we talk about incredible big men I think of Hakeem Olajuwon or Bill Russell. Not Dwight Howard, a center who gets shut down in the NBA finals by Pau Gasol and Andrew Bynum.

3. Jonathon Papelbon – Yes I said it folks, Papelbon is overrated. How can you argue that he isn’t? He has one pitch, a fast ball that everyone knows is coming. Every year he has gotten worse statistically – why? Not because he is getting older, but because he has been figured out. I mean already this spring training, blowing a 4 run lead to the Houston Astros in the ninth? This is going to be a repeat of last year, frustration when he struggles because idiot fans overhyped him.

Music

1. Led Zeppelin – I hate to do it to them, because I really do love Zeppelin but come on now. Zeppelin really only produced two very good albums. Zeppelin I & II are untouchable. Led Zeppelin three is absolute garbage and you Zeppelin IV is about the only thing you ever hear of them on the radio. It is probably the most commercialized album of all time. I like giving them credit for songs like “The Crunge” and “Living Loving Maid” but for some reason the only defense you hear for calling them the greatest rock band of all time is for “Stairway to Heaven”, “Rock and Roll” or “Black Dog”. They are a good band, but calling them the greatest is a stretch.

2. Lil’ Wayne – I am actually a big rap fan myself, but this man has no talent. All he does is rap over someone else’s beats in the same style every single time. Why does this man get so much hype? When he is making his own beats he sounds like garbage. Not to mention with the amount of songs he creates, you know he doesn’t write his own lyrics. “It’s all in his head”, please. If you drink as much cough syrup as he brags about I don’t think you can maintain a steady enough brain to keep all of those lyrics up there.

3. Nirvana – The fact that people call them the greatest band to come out of the 90’s baffles me. Even though the 90’s weren’t a glorious time for music, it is still ridiculous. Kurt Cobain just sang about nothing but depressing things to a distorted guitar. They really only made one good CD anyways. *In Utero* was average at best. *Nevermind* gets a lot of credit for a CD that sounded the same, track after track. Also, why don’t we take it easy with giving Cobain so much credit for his lyrics. Read them yourself, they aren’t exactly the lyrics of a genius.

“I’ll kiss your open sores
I appreciate your concern
You’re gonna stink and burn”

Movies

1. Bull Durham – I mean talk about an average movie. People actually consider this one of the greatest sports movies of all time. Let me ask one question; why? This is just average at best. Kevin Costner is painful to watch on the screen, and hearing him talk about it just makes it that much worse.

2. The Notebook – I wasted nearly two hours of my life watching this cliché garbage. Nicholas Sparks is an average writer with below average plots. Not to mention the ending is one of the most unrealistic things I have ever seen. She has extremely serious Alzheimer’s one minute, then the next she remembers everything. Seriously? I know what every girl is going to say to me. “Well if every girl says that it is so great, there has to be something right with it,” that is just proving my point of overrating it, so please don’t waste my time.

3. Step Brothers – Will Ferrell, I think it’s time you gave it a rest. I think I have seen him play the same character 20 different times. The jokes aren’t any different guys, just watch his movies. This movie is just so overrated and I don’t even understand why; it just isn’t that funny. It’s essentially Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly trying to do what Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels did in *Dumb and Dumber*. Two dumb guys, trying to find work. The only difference is that *Dumb and Dumber* is hilarious.

UNDERRATED

Sports

1. Paul Rabil – I’m sure most you non lacrosse fans have not heard of this individual. He is essentially the LeBron James of lacrosse, without the fame. Not only is he one the best lacrosse players I have ever seen in my life, he is one of the best athletes. He can shoot 90 MPH on the run with either hand, and 111 MPH with his strong hand taking a ‘crank’. This guy sounds amazing right? So why isn’t he all over ESPN like LeBron?

2. Shane Battier – It breaks my heart that defenders never get the attention that they deserve. If you ask any coach what wins championships, they will say very proudly “defense”. So why is it that every year the most valuable player in the NBA is an offensive stud? Shouldn’t it be offensive player of the year? Shane Battier is an example of a guy who does the little things on the court; like diving for a ball or shutting someone down. These aren’t recordable stats, but people who really know ball appreciate them.

3. Todd Helton – If you look at Todd Helton’s stats over the past few years, he is easily on track to be in the Hall of Fame. So why doesn’t he get coverage? I do not have an answer, Helton has always been an underrated player and I’m sure the Rockies have loved having him play for them.

Music

1. Warren Zevon – I’m sure you all think of him as a one hit wonder with “Werewolves of London”, but in all honesty I think he is one of the greatest artists of all time. Zevon can write lyrics like no one else, and is just musically on a different level than anyone else. He never got the credit that he deserved and it breaks my heart to this day. Listen to the song “Desperados Under the Eaves” by him and tell me that AC/DC deserves more credit as a band.

2. The Clash – Some people say that The Clash were just a punk band. When in reality, The Clash were far more than a punk band. Joe Strummer is one of the greatest lyricists of all time, I mean look at his lyrics to the song “Washington Bullets” talk about unbelievable. Without The Clash you wouldn’t see bands like Rancid or Sublime that have a punk – reggae influence to them.

3. Gang Starr – As I said before, I am a fan of rap music, but not crap rap. Guru has one of the smoothest voices of all time, and actually has raps that aren’t just about killing people and making money. This is a group that should have been at the top of the rap game but never got enough credit. Guru and DJ Premier are one of the greatest combinations rap has ever seen, and people still haven’t realized this.

MOVIES

1. Batman Begins – I honestly can’t even see a comparison between Batman Begins and The Dark Knight, the two don’t even match up. The only thing very good about The Dark Knight was The Joker, but Jack Nicholson’s Joker is still better in my eyes. The first of the new Batman’s actually had a good plot and a great ending, unlike the newest which seemed to drag on.

2. Dirty Work – Norm MacDonald is one of the funniest people alive and still people don’t realize it. Watch Dirty Work then come back to me. The combination of Macdonald, Artie Lang and Chris Farley is absolutely incredible. It’s one of the funniest movies I have seen, yet most people have never seen it; this is truly sad people, go out and rent it.

3. Jacob’s Ladder – This is easily the scariest movie I have ever seen in my life. It is more than a horror movie, it is a tale of what war does to men. Tim Robbins does an amazing job depicting a war veteran who is deliberately going insane. If you are going to watch a scary movie, watch this not the Saw movies.



The Notebook Courtesy of Google

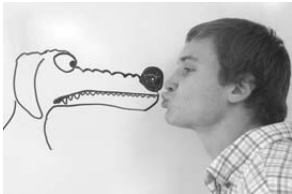


Paul Rabil Courtesy of Google



Courtesy of Google





Donovan Kelley
Op-Ed

The Rants: & Focus

Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship is the act of being respectful in any sort of competition. I have talked about this before in one of my previous articles. I personally think that sportsmanship is completely overrated. In my eyes you should have fun in a sport but winning is the overall goal. Being a good sport is usually at the bottom of my goals. Now I am not saying that I would go out of my way to be a bad sport, because that is just stupid. I just think that trying excessively to get a sportsmanship banner in our gymnasium is a bit pointless. “I have never understood the point of sportsmanship, to be honest. I think that you should be focused on the game and not being a nice opponent,” said junior Forrest Hoffman. “Being presentable is more like it,” added sophomore Mike Crotty.

Coaches and players will always say that winning isn’t their number one goal, but everyone knows that isn’t true. I love having fun on my teams and I still think that is essential along with team bonding but I personally believe that winning will always be above those. That is why trying so hard to be a good sport doesn’t seem to make much sense to me at all. If you want to win, why would you want to give your opponent any encouragement at all? This is why before any game I never say “good luck” to the other team.. Does anyone in their right mind want their opponent to have good luck? That is being disrespectful to your own team in my eyes, wishing luck for a team other than your own. “I don’t think giving the other team good luck means you want them to win, I feel it is a nice gesture,” said sophomore Izzy Gorham. Now I guess this can make sense, but saying good luck is still not for me.

The topic of sportsmanship goes along with what happens at our sporting events. Little by little our fans are being restricted from being *good fans*. I watched from the bench as an administrator at our school screamed in front of the fan section at fans for barking. Excessive much? I think so. “You need to let us be fans and enjoy the game. A lot of the things we do aren’t bad at all compared to other schools,” said senior Ryan Randall, ring leader of the fans. I think we need our administrators need to relax a bit at games and let kids have fun. If they aren’t using derogatory terms or swearing, isn’t it just fun and games? When I asked a few of the administrators if they thought this was part of the game, they simply shook their head and said not at all. Well that makes me wonder if any teachers in our school have ever watched any sort of game on television; college or professional. Do you think the fans are extremely concerned about sportsmanship? No, we are nowhere near that out of control yet we still get in trouble. My question is, if the rest of America is acting this way how is it not part of the game?

Alright, is anyone else extremely sick of this focus group nonsense? It’s gotten to the point where it’s almost laughable. We do not benefit from focus at all, and really never will. I know in my group we sit around and eat bagels. It is pretty awkward and no one seems to want to talk about anything. Towards the beginning of the school year it was fine, when we talked about college stuff (for us seniors) well, now basically everyone is done applying and some people even know where they are going. So what else can we talk about?

I am extremely jealous of some of the focus groups that do fun things like play kickball outside. It makes me wonder though, how is any of this beneficial at all? What exactly are we learning from going to this focus group? I personally believe they should either give us an extra half hour to sleep in and forget about this whole focus nonsense. Students would appreciate that more and would even benefit a lot more from the extra sleep. Instead, every other Friday we sit around a table awkwardly, passing bagels to each other and talk about what we did over the weekend. “I think that we should just be able to go to it if we want to, it shouldn’t be mandatory,” said Freshman Billy Salmon.



Courtesy of Google

Now that we are getting to the end of the school year I know that things aren’t going to change. With this article I hope our administration takes into consideration, the pointlessness of our focus groups. “Expanding class time isn’t a bad idea either,” said senior Mackenzie Leander. Now that is an interesting thought isn’t it? Why not just make classes a little bit longer, and get some real learning in? That would make too much sense though. Being forced to go to a pointless awkward room is better, where if you don’t go you are slapped in the face with a nice detention. Thank you very much Oyster River.



Timmy Short
Op-Ed Writer

Wiffleball: America’s (Next) Pastime

Contrary to popular belief, the game of wiffleball is not just a game at all. It’s not simply a hobby for ex-baseball players or a time-passer during lazy summer days, as some would have you believe, but rather an intense, competitive, and undoubtedly blossoming sport.

Here in Durham, for example, a group of friends built their own wiffleball field and get together to play all the time. “During the summer we play almost every day,” says Spencer Wyand. “There’s a bunch of us that maintain the field and play as much as we can. It takes up a lot of our time but it’s definitely worth it.”

Titled “Lambo Field”, the local wiffleball hub includes a large wall in left field nicknamed the “Orange Monster” and a treehouse beyond the fence in right, a perfect spot to watch a game from.

Lambo Field has even played host to tournaments in the past. “We had a two-on-two tourney last year,” says Wyand. “Each team paid 10 bucks to enter and the winner got half of the prize. We used the other half to make improvements on the field.”



However, the wiffleball revolution is not limited to small gatherings in small towns in small states like New Hampshire. What began in backyards and parks all over America is fast shaping itself into organized leagues with a devoted following.

Professional teams have sprung up all over the country, most notably in the northeast. A league called the “Golden Stick Wiffleball League” has two conferences in both

New York and Massachusetts. Every year, the best players from each conference even meet to play an all-star game. The GSWL has new divisions opening this year in St. Louis, Philadelphia, Vermont, and Sacramento. Another league, called “Fast Plastic” has taken root from New Jersey all the way to northern California.

Ryan Giggi, a resident of New Canaan, Connecticut, aspires to play in one of the many professional wiffleball leagues. “I’ve seen some pro wiffleball games before,” he says. “They are so intense. It’s incredible how hard some of the pitchers throw and how much movement they can get on all of their pitches.”

Unfortunately there is no such thing as a steady paycheck for a professional wiffleballer. Most of the competitors are just average Joes who’ve been bitten by the wiffleball bug and get together with their buddies to start up a team. The closest thing these guys get to a pay day is being lucky enough to compete for the national championship in Las Vegas, Nevada for a \$400 cash prize. Last year, 72 teams came out to show what they were made of.

With the prices of the best equipment, today’s teams definitely need that kind of money. The top wiffleball bats currently on the market are almost \$200 and made of aluminum, carbon, and fiberglass.

Many kids are developing wiffleball-related dreams. “I’d love to play in a national tournament,” says Giggi. “It sounds ridiculous but I think it would be an awesome experience.”

Brady Brickner-Wood, another member of the Lambo Legends, calls wiffleball is favorite sport. “I’m going to play [wiffleball] my whole life,” he says. “It’s probably the best game ever. Baseball mixed with tons of fun. The best feeling I’ve ever had is waking up on a summer day and playing some wiffleball.”



Oyster River High School
proudly presents
the Tony Award winning musical



Directed by Meredith Freeman-Caple
Musical Direction by Kathy Fink
Choreography by Alden Caple

May 6, 7, & 8 at 7:00
Tickets: \$8 Students/Seniors \$5



Bindy's Boutique

Bindy's Boutique has just had a huge shipment of prom dresses come in just in time for prom dress season!

New discount bridal shop dresses are as low as \$25 Every girl planning on going to prom should stop by and take a look at the new selection of great dresses.

Bindy's is located downtown Durham next to Tedeschi (Store 24) and behinde Durham House of Pizza.



Caitlin Olson
Sports Writer

Profile Story: Ryan Randall

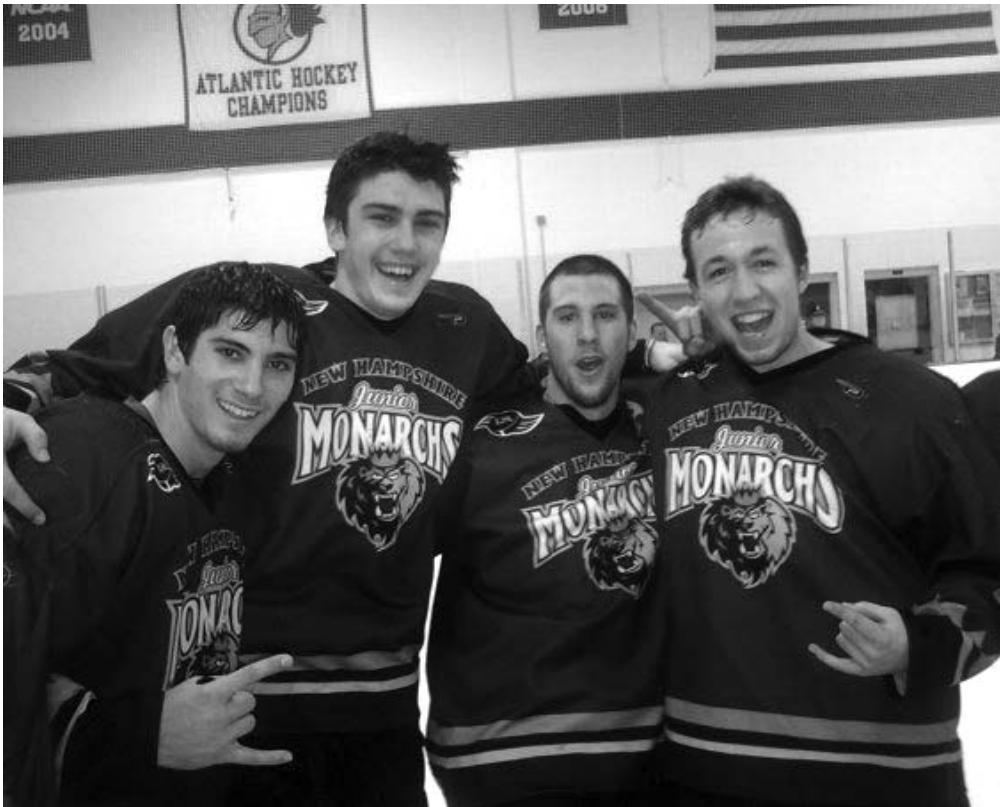
Ryan Randall has been playing hockey for thirteen years now and decided to take a year off of college next year to focus on stepping up his game. He plays for the Junior Monarchs in Manchester which will help him get into a division 1 hockey school. "Playing on this team is really helpful to get a scholarship for any really good school," says Randall.

"The results are pretty good, 13 kids on our team have committed to D1 schools and 3 committed to D3 schools and all they have at least half of their college tuition paid for," says Randall. A very high percentage of the players will have a place to go if they play with the Monarchs.

Randall is a Scholar student and a talented athlete who is able to juggle the full schedule of playing hockey and dealing with senior year. His hockey schedule takes him all over New England traveling as far as Minnesota. This schedule would wear down on anyone who tried, "It's all worth it though," says Randall. "I love the sport and plan on playing a lot more in the years to come."

In the end Ryan Randall tries hard to be successful and is able to keep up with school and hockey. "I'm hoping to play for UNH next year and I think I'll have a good chance at getting a scholarship," says Randall.

Photos courtesy of Facebook.com





Gabby Brodeur
Sports Writer

Athletes of the Month



February: Sean Leahy, Boys Hockey

Sean Leahy has been a name frequently heard in the high school hockey world this winter. The highest point scorer in the league, he dominated this season, right up to the State Championship game against Bow, which they unfortunately lost. Leahy has been playing hockey since he was 3 and is hopefully going to continue to play in college.



Sports hero?
Sidney Crosby

Favorite sports memory?

My favorite sports memory is winning championships in youth hockey with Goddard, Wilkinson, and Rohde.

Biggest goal for the season?
A state title..... No longer a goal.

Pre game rituals?
Higgs tapes my stick for me.

Gatorade or Powerade?
Gatorade.



March: Sam Higgs, Boys Hockey

Though his first goal of the season was an open netter, Sam Higgs was an important part of the boy's varsity hockey team this winter. Sam has been playing hockey since he was a youngin', and looks forward to next year's season.

Sports hero?

Bobby Orr (Bruins player during the 70's) because he was the best player to ever be in the game and he also wore #4.

Favorite sports memory?

If I had to pick, it would probably be going to the Verizon Center to play in the championship games these past two years. The feeling it gives you to walk into that arena, knowing that you are about to play for the state championship is pretty cool.



Least favorite sports memory?

Definitely losing in both the championship games the past two years.

Biggest goal for the season? Did you succeed?

The biggest goal this year was to win a state championship, and no we did not complete that... obviously.

Pre game rituals?

I always put on my pads starting on the right side. I really don't know why, it's just superstition.

Gatorade or Powerade?

Gatorade, Powerade is too watered down.





Gabby Brodeur
Sports Writer

Mascots: An Era Gone By



This all started when I was looking through a magazine with customizable clothing for sports teams. I reached the back of the magazine, where they had an entire two pages of pictures of mascots you could put on the stuff. Of course I looked for a bobcat, with no luck. But then I started realizing that our beloved (?) mascot, although it might be cool in theory, it's kind of lame. Not only are we just a little version of UNH's mascot, bobcats are also one of the more commonly seen mascots. So I decided to compile a list of some of the best and worst mascots, of professional sports, and high school/colleges alike.

LAME MASCOTS:



The Stanford Tree:

Not only does this thing look different in every picture, but the costume is also falling apart quite a bit. If they were going for a Christmas tree on some serious drugs, they achieved their goal. How this gets their fans pumped up, I will never know.



LEGIT MASCOTS:



Phoenix Suns Gorilla:

Not only is this the beefiest gorilla I've ever seen, it dunks through a ring of fire. Clearly freakishly intimidating. 'Nuff said.



Campbell University's Gaylord the Camel:

No, this is not a joke. Campbell picked a completely un-frightening camel as their mascot. Then, they decided to take it a step further and name the camel Gaylord. I don't know who was in charge of picking the mascot/name, but they failed at their job.



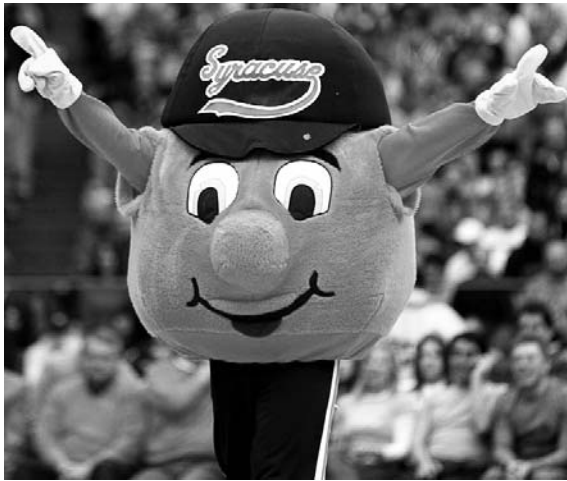
Texas Longhorn's BULL:

They have a live bull on a leash running around their school, it's already an intimidating idea, but god forbid the thing gets lose and goes on a rampage. Then you would literally be dominated by the opposing team's mascot. Well done Texas, well done.



The Syracuse Orange:

I know I'm going to get crap for putting this one in (namely from Daniel Olken), but seriously. Your school's mascot is an orange. Typically



mascots are used as an intimidation factor, but I guess in Syracuse's case they just want to remind everyone to get their fruits and veggies. It must be kind of a buzz kill to know your opponents could eat your mascots with little or no effort.

Georgia Bulldogs:

Bulldogs are pretty versatile, and pretty good as a mascot. It can be intimidating if it needs to be, but still can be a mascot you love and appreciate. Not to mention that Georgia has a real bulldog that they bring to the games, which is pretty cool.





Feature Sport: Backyard Games

Spring time is in the air, finally. The snow has melted, the grass is growing greener, the birds are chirping, flowers growing and people are getting outside. It’s time for backyard sports! Bocce, badminton, croquet, wiffle ball, tether ball, horse shoes, long darts, schuffle board and many more are all awesome things to do outside during the nice days in the spring time. Backyard games are a great way to have fun in the spring sunshine and a great way to get together with friends. In case you didn’t know how to play some of these awe-some games here’s a recap!

Rules of Bocce Ball

The great thing about bocce is that it can be played almost anywhere there is open space. This includes grassy surfaces such as a front lawn or back yard, dirt surfaces, sandy surfaces such as the beach, and even paved surfaces like parking lots.

Bocce is played with eight large balls and one smaller ball (called the pallino). The game can be played with 2, 4, or 8 players. Divide the bocce balls evenly between the number of players. You will notice that your bocce ball set has balls with several different colors or designs. Ideally, each bocce player will use balls from the set that are unique in design or color from all the other balls in play. This is helpful in distinguishing your bocce balls from those of another player.

At random, choose a player to throw the pallino. After the pallino is thrown, the same player will throw his first bocce ball. The purpose of the game is to get your bocce balls as close as possible to the pallino.

After the first player has thrown his first bocce ball, he is considered “inside” because his ball is closer to the pallino than any of the competitors balls. All other players are considered “outside.” Whenever a player is considered “inside,” he will forfeit his turn throwing bocce balls. All “outside” players will take turns throwing their bocce balls until one of theirs gets closer to the pallino than the “inside” player.

After all players have thrown their bocce balls, the player that is “inside” will be awarded points. One point will be awarded to this player for every ball that is closer to the pallino than his closest competitor’s ball. After the points are awarded, the frame is completed. Start a new frame by electing a new person to throw the pallino and to throw the first bocce ball. A game is won when a player reaches 13 points.



Rules of Croquet

Croquet has a reputation for being a courteous game for garden parties and picnics. Played on varying terrain and from two to six players it can provide fun and excitement at formal social occasions or to pleasantly while-away and afternoon.

The setup for croquet is fairly simple, it requires only an open field and a croquet set comprised of two stakes, nine wickets, along with a couple of mallets and balls.

The object of the game is to pass a ball through all the wickets. A coin toss should determine who goes first. Color determines order and should be allocated based on teams selected and the coin toss. It should be noted that

there is not a particular advantage to being first. In fact, many players prefer to be late in the order.

The player to begin play places his ball about mid-way between the stake and the first wicket. He hits his ball with the mal-let and attempts to pass through the wickets before him. If he passes through both wickets, he receives two bonus strokes.

Generally, bonus strokes do not accumulate - only the last bonus strokes earned are allowed (the exception being the two wickets at the starting or turning stakes). Bonus strokes are awarded for going through a wicket, for hitting a stake, or for hitting another ball.

Bonus strokes for passing through wickets or hitting a stake are played from where the ball lies after the point is made. When a player hits another player’s ball, it is called roqueting. For roqueting a player is awarded two bonus strokes.

If a player roquets he has four options. First, he may take two bonus strokes from wherever his ball lands. Second, he may place his own ball a single mallet head’s length away from the ball hit - in any direction he chooses. Then he may take his two bonus strokes. Third, he may put his ball next to the ball hit. Then hit his own ball so that it moves both balls in a desired direction. He then has one bonus shot remaining. Finally, he may place his own ball side by side with the struck ball. Then placing his foot on his own ball strike it so as to move the other ball without moving his own. He then has one stroke to execute as he chooses.

Each ball may be roqueted only once per turn unless the player goes through a wicket or hits the turning stake. Even so, a player may roquet more than one ball per turn between wickets. If a ball is struck twice in the same turn without passing through a wicket, no penalty is awarded, no bonus is awarded.

If another player by any legal means moves another player’s ball through a wicket or causes it to hit a stake, the wicket or stake is scored, but no bonus strokes are awarded. Balls sent out of bounds should be placed one mallet length (about 36 inches) from the boundary back within the playing field at approximately the point it went out of bounds. In tournament play, balls that fall within a mallet of the boundary at the end of a turn are moved back from the boundary by the length of one mallet.

A few final notes: Balls may be struck only with the face of the mallet. A mallet cannot strike another ball. Balls played out of turn accrue no penalty - the balls are returned to status quo ante (the situation before the error occurred).

To win at croquet, a player or team must score the highest number of points. One point is awarded for every wicket passed through in the proper direction and proper order. (That means there are two points awarded for five of the wickets, 1 point each for four wickets, and one point for each stake for a total of 16 points).

Rules of Badminton

The rules of badminton states that a toss shall be conducted before a game starts. If you win, you can choose between serving first or to start play at either end of the court. Your opponent can then exercise the remaining choice. The rules of badminton states that a badminton match shall consist of the best of 3 games. In doubles and men’s singles, the first side to score 15 points wins the game. In women’s singles, the first side to score 11 points wins the game. The side winning a game serves first in the next game. Only the serving side can add a point to its score.

- Faults
- If the shuttle lands outside the boundaries of the court, passes through or under the net, fail to pass the net, touches the ceiling or side walls, touches the person or dress of a player or touches any other object or person.
 - If the initial point of contact with the shuttle is not on the striker’s side of the net. (The striker may, however, follow the shuttle over the net with the racket in the course of a stroke.)
 - If a player touches the net or its supports with racket, person or dress, invades an opponent’s court over the net with racket or person except as permitted.
 - If a player invades an opponent’s court under the net with racket or person such that an opponent is obstructed or distracted or obstructs an opponent, that is prevents an opponent from making a legal stroke where the shuttle is followed over the net.
 - If a player deliberately distracts an opponent by any action such as shouting or making gestures.
 - If the shuttle is caught and held on the racket and then slung during the execution of a stroke.
 - If the shuttle is hit twice in succession by the same player with two strokes.
 - If the shuttle is hit by a player and the player’s partner successively or touches a player’s racket and continues towards the back of that player’s court.
 - If a player is guilty of flagrant, repeated or persistent offences under Law of Continuous Play, Misconduct, Penalties.
 - If, on service, the shuttle is caught on the net and remains suspended on top, or, on service, after passing over the net is caught in the net.

Connor Clark struggling to put up a Badminton net



Gabby Brodeur playing backyard Bocce

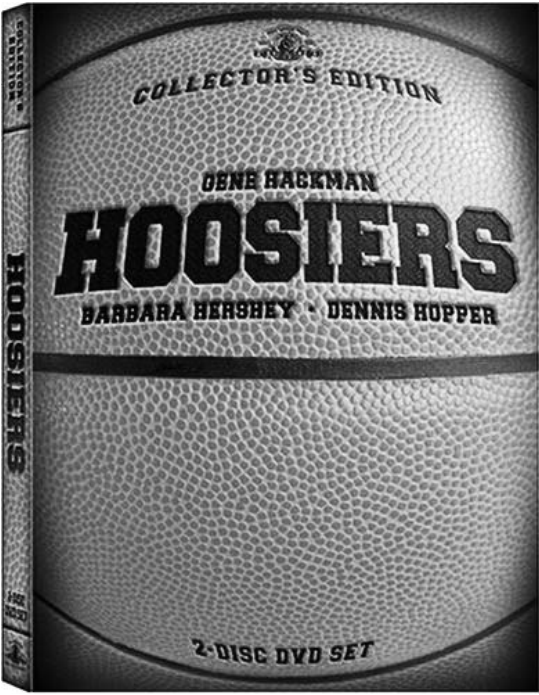




Josh Park
Sports Writer

Best Sports Movies

There have been many sports movies and they have a special place in the hearts of many. They may not be the best acted or best directed movies but the typical sports film formula has been used in various ways with much success.



Hoosiers

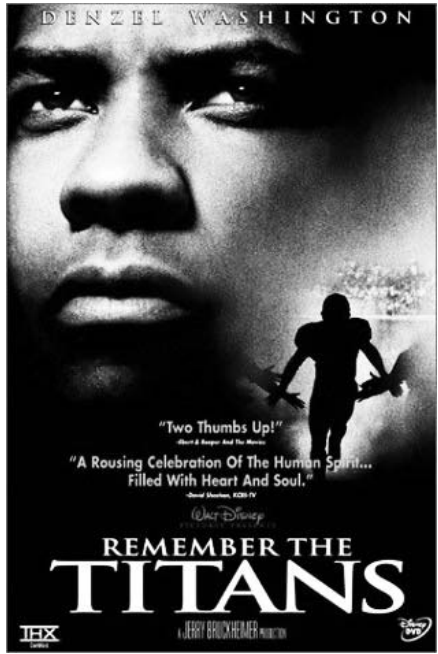
Hoosiers, nominated for two Oscars, is the classic basketball underdog story. The team that couldn't, did. Starring Gene Hackman, as Coach Norman Dale, Hoosiers tells a true story of a small high school in Indiana going against the odds and becoming one of the best teams in the state. It's a movie with various sub-plots. It's a feel good movie that is very similar to a more recent movie, Glory Road. My only complaint is the lack of character development of the team. The movie was more centered on the coach.

Rating: 3 out of 4

Mighty Ducks Trilogy

The Mighty Ducks might not be a critic's favorite. For many people of my age the Mighty Ducks were amongst the first feature films that they had seen. Sports formula didn't occur to us when we were that young. In fact no formula was even seen because our lack of indulgence in many different kinds of film. The Mighty Ducks trilogy introduces a new underdog story in every film. Watching it again today, it's a little bit corny but there is no scene in sports film like when Julie "The Cat" saves a penalty off the stick of Gunner Stahl of Iceland.

Rating: 4 out 4 (younger)



Remember the Titans

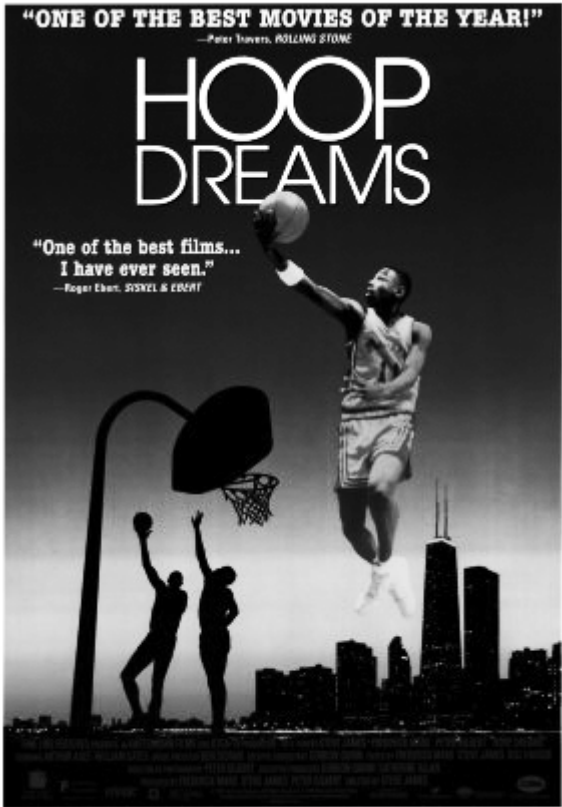
Remember the Titans is a good film involving racial integration. The difference with Remember the Titans and other films of the same genre is that Titans does it right. The viewer experiences many different feelings and emotions while watching. There are many twist and turns that you experience. The football scenes are good because it feels like more than a game. The angles they provide really make you become immersed in the game, not only as a spectator, but almost like a player.

Rating: 3 out of 4

Hoop Dreams

Hoop Dreams is a documentary that follows two inner city kids and their goal of playing professional basketball. Early on it's clear one of the kids, Arthur Agee, won't be able to keep going on the prep basketball path that the other male protagonist William Gates. It provides a harsh reality of the relationship between dreams and money. It follows all four years of both kids and shows their ultimate destination. It is one of the top grossing documentaries of all time.

Rating: 4 out of 4



Todd's Trot



West Point students running

People running in combat boots and packs on Coe Drive is not a common sight. This isn't your typical ROTC training run. A group of West Point students have come up to run in honor of their fallen comrade.

Todd's Trot is being held Saturday April 10, 2010. For those who don't know what Todd's Trot is, it's a five kilometer race/walk in honor of the late Todd Heuchling with proceeds going to the Peter Todd Heuchling Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Since it began in 2004 Todd's Trot has been a successful race. Last year three Oyster River boys placed in the top 10 overall: Ricky Hoyt (graduated '09), Jack Collopy and Gubby Noronha. Two Oyster River girls also placed in the top 10 Zoe Frockling (graduated '09) and Eileen Slavin (graduated '09). The best Oyster River finish was the first year it was held when Eyob Eyaulem (graduated '07) won the race.

This year computer teacher Mrs. Carr organized a faculty team. There are 20+ faculty members running/walking the race. This is the first year that the faculty has had a team for the race. "I just sent an email out to everyone because I thought it would be a fun thing for the faculty to get together and do," says Carr.

It isn't too late to sign up. Go to www.toddstrot.org for more information or show up on race day at Oyster River High School for registration!



Oyster River graduate Stephen Wilson running hard



Runners waiting for the race to begin



Caitlin Olson
Sports Writer



Gabby Brodeur
Sports Writer



Josh Park
Sports Writer

Sports Predictions

Girls’ Lacrosse

Over the past years that the girls’ lacrosse team has been around they have been slowly improving ending with last year’s record of quarterfinals. This was a huge leap for the team last year to make it that far and hopes are high, “I am really excited for the season. I think we have a very good chance of going really far this year,” says Senior Captain Bekah Schuman. “There are so many seniors on the team who are all experienced and have played since they were freshmen or before.” Having a strong bond among the team is an important aspect to achieve, “Our team has always been close, all of us are friends and we all get along which is extremely important,” says Senior Captain Emma Smith. Players to look out for : Emily Rodgers on attack, Liz Madden on defense, and Bekah Schuman on mid. “We are going to have an amazing season and everyone should come to our first home game Monday April 12th!” says Smith. Home Opener Game: April 12th

Boys’ Lacrosse

The past few years for the boys’ lacrosse team have been a frustration. They’ve had so much hard work and made it all the way to the state championship round but have not won it yet. “We have a more experienced team than last year,” Says Senior Donovan Kelley, “I have strong hopes of winning states this year.” Some of the strong players this year are Ryan Randall who is an extremely talented face off player and Ethan Hotchkiss on defense along with Joseph Fletcher in goal. First game is April 13th against Bishop Brady, come out the event and enjoy. Home Opener Game: April 13th

Girls’ Softball

The softball team may be experiencing a rebuilding season. With two key pitchers Jenny Macarthur and Eryn True not returning it’s back to square one this year. The softball team hasn’t really enjoyed great success but this could be a different year. “Last year we came close to beating St. Thomas so that will hopefully be a pretty good game this year,” says Junior Ashley Benuck. With a new batch of freshman with possible softball superstars who knows how this season will be.

Boys’ Baseball

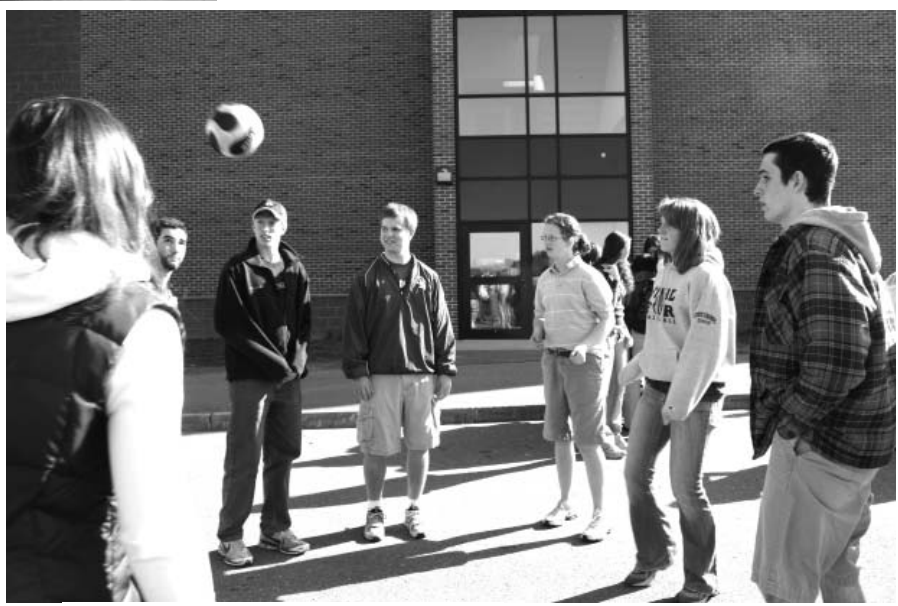
“We only lost one senior last year, so this year we should be very strong as a team,” said senior captain Tim Short. “I think we have the potential to be serious contenders in Class I and surprise a lot of more established teams. We certainly have the talent, but I think it’s more a question of determination at this point.” We look forward to seeing how the baseball boys will do as their season progresses! Biggest rivals: St. Thomas, Portsmouth, Coe Brown Home Opener Game: April 16th

Boys’ Outdoor Track

“The team doesn’t have the power house that 07 had but it is still strong and we have some solid underclassmen.” said senior Dan Olken, who has been on the team for the past four years. “The season should be pretty good. There’s a lot of prospect in the relays and distance. Other events will do well do I think, we have a lot of talent across the board.” The boys track team has always been a successful bunch, and this year have a solid line up. We look forward to their progress in the 2010 outdoor season. Biggest rivals: Coe Brown, Hanover Young athletes to watch: Alex Johnson, Ethan Druskat, Ryan Brady, Jack Collopy

Girls’ Outdoor Track

“We have a really small team compared to past years... It’s good because practices will go more smoothly, but it will also stink because less people usually mean fewer points in a meet.” said Senior and four year veteran Hannah Allen. Though the girls track team has decreased in size, and lost a key point winner Lana Ciali, they have some very strong athletes and some talented newcomers, and should do well in their upcoming season. Biggest rivals: Milford, Coe Brown Young athletes to watch: Natalie Bilynsky, Rebecca Raeder



BOBCATS

